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CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART 27.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

39

September and October 1905.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Mr. Lowther ..	222	Aug. 20, 1905	Conference. Informs of attitude of Moorish Government towards programme (see Nos. 163 and 186, Part 26)	1
2	„ „ ..	223	22,	Programme of Conference. German Minister says he has not mentioned it to Moorish Government. Other reports say he has advised Moorish Government to accept it and raise difficulties during discussions (see No. 182, Part 26)	1
3	„ „ ..	224	22,	Conference. Transmits Moorish acknowledgment of His Majesty's Government's acceptance. Probably shows desire of Moors it should be held at Tangier (see No. 108, Part 26)	2
4	Paper communicated by M. Geoffray	..	Sept. 1,	Programme of Conference. Notes exchanged between M. Rouvier and Prince Radolin, 25th–30th August (see No. 148, Part 26)	3
5	Mr. Lowther ..	88 Tel.	Aug. 28,	Arrest of Algerian. Reports release (see No. 206, Part 26)	7
6	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	Sept. 1,	Arrest of Algerian. French Minister at Fez instructed to leave within eight days unless all demands complied with (see No. 5) ..	7
7	„ „ ..	..	Aug. 27,	Arrest of Algerian. French instructions as communicated by French Chargé d'Affaires. French Mission to Fez will be withdrawn unless demands are complied with (see No. 6)	7
8	Mr. Lowther ..	89 Tel.	30,	Arrest of Algerian. French Minister has sent in note fixing his departure for 5th September unless demands are complied with (see No. 7)	8
9	Mr. Lister	323	Sept. 1,	Arrest of Algerian. Transmits official communiqué to press stating French Government cannot accept terms on which he has been released (see No. 7)	8
10	„ „	325	1,	Conference programme. Transmits official communiqué stating French reply to last German note was handed in last night (see No. 4)	9
11	Mr. Lowther ..	225	Aug. 24,	Ma-al-Ain Mission to the Sultan. Reports respecting	9
12	„ „ ..	226	24,	Murder of Mr. Madden. Transmits despatch from Consul Maclean. Mrs. Madden's action. Desirability of sending a war-ship to Mazagan. Indemnity to be obtained from Moorish Government (see No. 204, Part 26)	10
13	„ „ ..	227	25,	Murder of Mr. Madden. Renewed complaints made to Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting action of Governor of Mazagan. New Commissioner sent to Mazagan. Is said to be an intelligent and active official. Instructions have also been sent to the Ameer, who is strongly recommended by Mr. Maclean, to co-operate with the new Commissioner (see No. 12)	12
14	„ „ ..	228	26,	Arrest of Algerian. German Minister's attempt to associate himself with French protest (see No. 9)	13
15	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	Aug. 29, 1905	German loan. Further details from German Agent respecting progress of (see No. 205, Part 26)	13
16	Mr. Cartwright ..	70 Tel.	Sept. 4,	Conference. Informs of exchange of letters between French Embassy and Spanish Government respecting programme and alterations in programme made in consequence (see No. 207, Part 26)	14
17	„ „ ..	71 Tel. Confidential	4,	Conference. Spanish Government satisfied with French proposals for safeguarding Spanish interests, but anxious His Majesty's Government should support Spanish town as meeting-place (see No. 16) ..	14
18	Mr. Lowther ..	90 Tel.	1,	Arrest of Algerian. French note handed in on 30th August for submission to Sultan (see No. 14)	14
19	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	5,	Dragoman of German Legation. Going to Paris to advise German Embassy.. ..	15
20	„ „ ..	..	Aug. 30,	Arrest of Algerian. French Chargé d'Affaires fears he may be released on plea of ill-health (see No. 18)	15
21	Mr. Lowther ..	91 Tel.	Sept. 2,	Arrest of Algerian. No answer having been received from Moorish Government. French Minister has added demand for immediate payment of an old claim (see No. 20) ..	15
22	Mr. Cartwright ..	159 Confidential	4,	Programme of Conference. Informs of conclusion of Franco-Spanish Agreement (to apparent satisfaction of both parties) (see No. 16)	15
23	Mr. Lowther ..	92 Tel. Secret	3,	Arrest of Algerian. High Moorish official informs French Minister that arrest was advised by German Minister (see No. 21) ..	17
24	Sir F. Bertie ..	56 Tel.	7,	Arrest of Algerian. Hears Sultan has given satisfaction and that German Minister is out of favour (see No. 23)	17
25	„ „ ..	57 Tel.	7,	Arrest of Algerian. Minister for Foreign Affairs says full satisfaction given and incident terminated (see No. 24)	17
26	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	7,	Arrest of Algerian. Satisfaction given (see No. 25)	17
27	Mr. Cartwright ..	72 Tel. Secret	7,	Conference. French Ambassador confirms communication made in No. 16, and has written promise of Spain's support to France and England at Conference	18
28	„ „ ..	73 Tel. Confidential	7,	Meeting-place of Conference. German Ambassador in conversation with French Ambassador said Germany would have to support Tangier *pro formâ*, though choice was not a good one (see No. 17; and No. 146, Part 26)	18
29	Mr. Lowther ..	93 Tel.	4,	Murder of Mr. Madden. Four out of five prisoners have confessed, and there is strong evidence against the fifth. Advises that formulation of demands to Moorish Government should be deferred for the present, as instigator of the murder may yet be discovered (see No. 13)	18
30	„ „ ..	94 Tel.	4,	Arrest of Algerian. Moorish Government have given way. Some modification made in sum payable for claims (see No. 26) .	19

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
31	Mr. Cartwright ..	160	Sept. 6, 1905	Spanish ships to cruise off Melilla. Reports intention of Government to despatch. It is hoped that restraining influence will thus be exercised on adjacent tribes	19
32	Mr. W. Smith .	Telegraphic	9,	Disturbances round Tangier. Uneasiness amongst Europeans. Sultan's Deputy maintains that town is in no danger. Two French men-of-war in the bay have landing parties ready in case of emergency. Suggests that one of ships at Gibraltar might be held in readiness to visit Tangier at short notice if necessary (see No. 197, Part 26) ..	19
33	Mr. Lowther ..	229	Aug. 28,	Conference. Count Tattenbach's views as to programme and attitude of Moorish Government. He raises no difficulties in principle to its meeting at Algeciras (see Nos. 1 and 28)	19
34	„ „ ..	230	28,	German loan. Conversation between French and German Ministers respecting (see No. 15)	20
35	„ „ ..	231	29,	Arrest of Algerian. Chief Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs says Sultan will release with certain reserves (see No. 20)	20
36	„ „ ..	232	29.	Arrest of Algerian. Reports release and proposal of Moorish Government to refer question to Conference. French Minister's account of case (see No. 30) ..	21
37	„ „ ..	233	30.	Bu Amama's intrigues. Reports respecting (see No. 193, Part 26)	21
38	„ „ ..	234	30.	Ma-al-Ain Mission. Report that Sultan has agreed to supply them with rifles and ammunition (see No. 11)	22
39	„ „ ..	235	Sept. 1,	Arrest of Algerian. French ultimatum handed in (see No. 36)	22
40	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	1.	Conference. Russian Government's acceptance of Sultan's invitation was without reservation, and it is, therefore, hard to understand why they have received a note from Moorish Government similar to that sent in No. 3. Spanish Government have had a similar note (see No. 95, Part 26)	23
41	„ „ ..	..	3.	Reisouli. Fighting between his tribes and the Anghera. System of taxation innovated by Reisouli. Plot to capture him discovered and punished (see No. 337, Part 25)	23
42	„ „ .	..	4,	Attempt to land arms from a Belgian yacht. Reported from Dar-al-Baida. German and Belgian Vice-Consuls suspected of complicity	24
43	„ „ ..	..	5.	Situation near Tangier. Negotiations between Raisuli and German Legation (see Nos. 32 and 41)	24
44	To Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	11,	Disturbances round Tangier. Telegram sent to Senior Naval Officer, Gibraltar, to hold a ship in readiness to proceed to Tangier if necessary (see No. 32)	25
45	To Admiralty ..	..	11,	Situation near Tangier. Transmits No. 32 from Mr. Smith, and requests war-ship may be kept ready to proceed to Tangier if necessary (see No. 44)	25

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
46	Mr. W. Smith .	Telegraphic	Sept. 12, 1905	Disturbances round Tangier. Note circulated by doyen of Diplomatic Body suggesting that he should make representations to the Sultan's Commissioner with regard to the want of security at Tangier. All foreign Representatives have approved the suggestion except the German Chargé d'Affaires, who advocates that each Legation should act for itself (see No. 45)	25
47	Mr. Lowther ..	237 A	4,	Anti-French agitation. Shereefian letters read in mosques stating Pretender is helped from Algeria (see No. 37)	25
48	„ „ ..	238	4,	Arrest of Algerian. All French demands accepted and incident closed (see No. 39) ..	26
49	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	7,	Situation near Tangier. Disturbances purely inter-tribal, not anti-European (see Nos. 43 and 46)	26
50	To Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	13,	Disturbances round Tangier. His Majesty's ship "Amethyst" will be held in readiness to go to Tangier if necessary (see No. 46)	27
51	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	14,	Disturbances near Tangier. Apparently quieting down, so war-ship will not be wanted (see No. 50)	27
52	To Sir F. Bertie ..	604 Confidential	14,	Franco-Spanish Agreement. Informs of private letter from M. Cambon giving substance of (see No. 22)	27
53	Mr. Lowther ..	239	5,	Murder of Mr. Madden. The five prisoners have been proved guilty as being implicated. Transmits despatch from Consul Maclean enclosing their confessions. Instigator of the murder still at large (see No. 29) ..	28
54	Mr. W. Smith ..	16 Commercial	5,	Establishment of branch of Bank of Spain at Tangier. Informs of investigations made by Spanish officials	33
55	„ „ ..	..	10,	Situation near Tangier. Proposed joint representation to Sid Torres as to danger to Europeans (see No. 51)	34
56	Mr. Cartwright ..	163	15,	Meeting-place of Conference. Has informed President of Council that His Majesty's Government support proposal for Spanish town. Transmits letter of thanks in reply (see Nos. 17 and 28)	35
57	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	12,	Situation near Tangier. Action of Reisouli (see Nos. 43 and 55)	35
58	Mr. Lowther ..	95 Tel.	15,	Murder of Mr. Madden. Demands to be made of Moorish Government suggested by Mr. Maclean. Desirable that there should be no further delay in presenting them (see No. 53)	36
59	„ „ ..	240	8,	Programme of Conference. Sudden change in Count Tattenbach's views as to probability of early acceptance of (see Nos. 2 and 33) ..	36
60	„ „ ..	241	10,	Situation near Tangier. Conversation with French Minister respecting employment of troops under Captain Fournier (see No. 55)	37
61	Mr. W. Smith ..	Confidential	15,	Coasting service between Moorish ports. Rumoured establishment of by German company. Subsidized by German Government (see No. 129, Part 26)	37

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
61*	Sir F. Bertie ..	345	Sept. 19, 1905	France and Germany. Outburst of indignation in French papers at slowness of negotiations (see No. 109, Part 26)	38*
62	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic Confidential	21,	Kaïd Maclean's loan. Informs of proposal for 100,000*l.* communicated by Mr. Abensur ..	38
63	To Mr. W. Smith ..	52 Tel.	24,	Kaïd Maclean's loan. To warn General against transaction and inform Mr. Lowther of views of His Majesty's Government (see No. 62)	38
64	Mr. Lowther ..	242	14,	Valuation of Government lands. Difficulties which may arise if Government claims possession of (see No. 122, Part 26) ..	38
65	„ „ ..	243	15,	Murder of Mr. Madden. Transmits despatch from Consul Maclean. Conclusion of inquiry. Four of accused have pleaded guilty, and there is little doubt of guilt of the fifth. It now remains to decide what demands should be presented to the Moorish Government for punishment of the men (see No. 58)	39
66	„ „ ..	244	16,	Interview between Sultan and French Minister on conclusion of incident of arrest of Algerian. Renewal of better relations (see No. 48)	41
67	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	16,	Situation near Tangier. End of inter-tribal fighting. German Chargé d'Affaires' complaint against Commander of M'halla (see No. 60)	42
68	„ „ ..	..	18,	Tangier Harbour Concession. Undoubtedly granted to French Company first. No work commenced by German concessionnaires (see Nos. 167 and 200, Part 26)..	43
69	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	25,	Kaïd Maclean's loan. Has carried out instructions in No. 63. General will refuse any request made by Sultan with above object ..	44
70	To Mr. Lowther ..	53 Tel.	25,	Murder of Mr. Madden. His Majesty's Government is clearly entitled to demand punishments suggested in No. 58. Sir A. Nicolson's suggestions as regards execution of the culprits and indemnity (see No. 65) ..	44
71	Sir F. Bertie ..	348	24,	Franco-German negotiations. M. Rouvier says Germans are continually raising fresh points (see No. 61*)	44
72	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	27,	German loan. Mr. Abensur reports negotiations making progress (see No. 34) ..	44
73	To Sir F. Bertie ..	634	27,	Franco-German negotiations. Account given by French Minister (see No. 71).. ..	45
74	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	21,	Reisouli. His differences with the Beni Mesouar tribe. Attempted settlement by Wazzan Shereef. He has returned without succeeding (see No. 41)	46
75	Mr. Lowther ..	96 Tel. Confidential	25,	Kaïd Maclean's loan. Urges he should be dissuaded from carrying out (see No. 69) ..	46
76	To Mr. Lowther ..	54 Tel.	29,	Franco-German Agreement. Informs of. Probable terms of programme (see No. 73)..	47
77	Sir F. Bertie ..	357	28,	Franco-German Agreement. Transmits official communiqué to press announcing (see No. 76)	47

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
78	To Sir F. Bertie ..	635	Sept. 30, 1905	Franco-German negotiations. Transmits draft programme agreed upon by two Governments on 28th September, and informs of further points in Agreement (see No. 77) ..	47
79	To Mr. Lowther ..	55 Tel.	Oct. 1,	Franco-German Agreement. Communicated by French Minister. Corresponds with forecast in No. 76. To concert with French colleague for leaving Fez as soon as possible (see No. 78; and No. 203, Part 26)	50
80	Mr. Lowther ..	245	Sept. 19,	Murder of Mr. Madden. Instigator of the crime has been heard of at Dar-al-Baida, and is reported to have joined Raisuli. He is probably in the Zimmur country. Transmits despatch from Consul Maclean (see Nos. 70 and 74)	51
81	„ „ ..	246 Confidential	19,	France and Morocco. Transmits Circular from Makhzen to Notables, insinuating state of country is due to Algerian help to Pretender (see No. 47)	52
82	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	18,	Belgian application for concession of fishing rights on Moorish coast. Dr. Tacquin's visit to Fez with alleged object of obtaining concession (see No. 71, Part 26)	54
83	„ „ ..	..	23,	French yacht "Aigle." Arrival at Dar-al-Baida. She is to visit Fedalla, Rabat, Mehedia, and Laraiche. Unlikely that surveying operations can be continued during winter (see No. 202, Part 26)	54
84	„ „ ..	..	24,	Menebhi. Arrival of his brother and two of his nephews, who were put into prison at Mazagan, but released on representations of Vice-Consul Spinney (see No. 157, Part 26)	55
85	„ „ ..	..	24,	Tangier mole. May be built by a French firm under contract with German concessionnaires (see No. 68)	55
86	„ „ ..	..	26,	Spanish fishing-vessel boarded by Moors off Ceuta. Reports. Band of Moors was led by brother of Valiente. Spanish Minister has lodged a strong protest with Sultan's Deputy	55
87	„ „ ..	..	26,	German loan. Mr. Abensur states conditions as to security and repayment accepted by Moorish Government (see No. 72) ..	56
88	„ „ ..	..	27,	French yacht "Eider." Anchored on shore of Anghera district. Possibility of its landing contraband. Moorish authorities not allowed to examine contents of the yacht's hold. Captain of French cruiser at Tangier kept the yacht under close observation during her stay at Tangier. No action of a suspicious nature observed	56
89	Sir C. Phipps ..	112	30,	Belgian yacht "Ville de Bordeaux." Belgian Government unaware that their Vice-Consul at Dar-al-Baida had in any way been mixed up in the matter (see No. 42)	57
90	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	28,	United States protected Moor imprisoned by Governor of Tangier. United States' Minister's action in the matter. Sid Torres refuses release of prisoner. Messenger has been sent to Ben Sliman at Fez, informing him of facts of the case, and demanding prisoner's immediate release	57

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
91	Mr. Lowther ..	97 Tel.	Oct. 1, 1905	German loan. Reports signature, with details (see No. 87)	58
92	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	4,	German loan. Mendelssohn's report says contract signed at Fez for 500,000*l.* Half taken by French banks. Details of contract (see No. 91)	58
93	Sir F. Bertie ..	364	4,	German loan. Minister for Foreign Affairs says part will be taken over by French firms and a small share reserved for English firms, and hopes Missions will now leave Fez (see Nos. 79 and 92)	58
94	„ „ ..	367	5,	France and Germany. Summary of "Temps" correspondent's interview with Bülow. Defence of M. Delcassé published in "Matin" (see No. 61*)	59
95	Mr. Lowther ..	98 Tel.	3,	Murder of Mr. Madden. Moorish Government have earnestly requested that demand for murderers' execution should not be put forward. Sultan's position would be seriously affected by their execution. Imprisonment for life for two ringleaders and 10 years' imprisonment for others agreed to. Sultan recommended to offer 2,000*l.* as a gratuity. May this solution be accepted (see No. 80)	59
96	„ „ ..	99 Tel.	3,	Franco-German Agreement. Has been given text of, and of programme by French Minister. Latter instructed not to await Sultan's acceptance of programme, which is already known to, and not disapproved by, Moorish Government (see No. 79) ..	60
97	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic Confidential	7,	Additional loan to Sultan. Menebhi reports Abensur charged to negotiate loan for 2,000,000*l.* with Mendelssohn and Co. (see No. 93)	60
98	„ „ ..	Telegraphic Confidential	8,	Communication of programme to Sultan. German Minister instructed to effect in concert with French Minister, but to await its acceptance at Fez (see No. 96)	60
99	Mr. Lowther ..	248	Sept. 27,	Tangier harbour works. Interruption of Rosen–Révoil negotiations due to difficulty in settling whether French or German concessions bore earliest date (see No. 85) ..	60
100	„ „ ..	249	28,	Pretender. Transmits Memorandum of his movements from 17th August to 28th September. Steps taken by Government to check his advance (see No. 37)	61
101	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	Oct. 2,	Reisouli. Beni M'souar and Wad Ras tribes have released his mother. He has sent a mixed force to destroy villages where she passed her captivity, in view of refusal of tribes to surrender those responsible for her capture (see No. 74)	62
102	Mr. Cartwright ..	171	5,	Disturbances in Melilla district. Rumours have reached Madrid of. Moors of Guelaya anxious to place themselves under Spanish protection, being weary of extortions to which they are subjected by the Government and the Pretender. Sultan having prohibited import of money through Moorish ports, its introduction through Melilla is increasing ..	62
103	Sir F. Bertie ..	369	8,	France and Germany. Indignation of French press at Prince Bülow's attempts to cajole France (see No. 94)	63

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
104	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	Oct. 4, 1905	Murder of Mr. Madden. Lawlessness prevailing in Mazagan district at time of. No hope of security for life or property so long as present Governor of Mazagan retains his post (see No. 95)	64
105	„ „ ..	..	4,	French yacht "Aigle." Its arrival at Rabat. Expedition have been surveying Fedallah—disused harbour—chosen for disembarkation of rifles by Belgian vessel as reported in No. 42 (see Nos. 83 and 89)	65
106	Mr. Lowther ..	100 Tel.	6,	Communication of programme to Sultan. German Minister's proposal to communicate Franco-German Agreement simultaneously, referred to French and German Governments (see No. 98)	65
107	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	10,	Additional loan to Sultan. Mr. Abensur leaving for Europe and will see Sir E. Cassel and Messrs. Mendelssohn (see No. 97) ..	65
108	To Mr. Lowther ..	56 Tel.	10,	Murder of Mr. Madden. To accept solution proposed in No. 95 (see No. 104) ..	65
109	Sir F. Bertie ..	371	11,	France and Germany. M. Lauzanne's explanations respecting his articles in the "Matin" (see Nos. 94 and 102)	66
110	Sir A. Nicolson ..	173	9,	Conference. Conversation with Prime Minister and Minister of State on Paris negotiations and question of hotel accommodation at Algeciras (see No. 56)	66
111	Sir F. Bertie ..	373	12,	Attack on M. Delcassé in "New York Herald." Informs of, and reply (see No. 109) .	67
112	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	13,	French Minister preparing to leave Fez, according to French Chargé d'Affaires (see No. 79)	67
113	Sir F. Lascelles ..	244	8,	France and Germany. Transmits samples of press criticisms on Prince Bülow's conversations with French journalists (see No. 108)	67
114	Mr. Lowther ..	101 Tel.	11,	Communication of programme to Sultan. Written text given to Minister for Foreign Affairs by French Minister. German Minister not instructed to do so (see Nos. 98 and 106). French Minister has informed Moorish Government he leaves Fez on 20th. Will leave as soon as possible after that date (see No. 112) ..	69
115	Sir F. Bertie ..	375	14,	Delcassé incident. Further press campaign consequent on démenti published after meeting of Council of Ministers (see No. 111)	69
116	Vice-Admiral Sir W. May to Admiralty	Telegraphic	16,	Capture of two British officers by brigands. Reports	69
117	Sir A. Nicolson ..	77 Tel.	17,	Capture of British officers by brigands. Governor of Ceuta will be ordered to abstain from hostile action, pending steps to be taken by Legation at Tangier	70
118	„ „ ..	78 Tel.	17,	Capture of British officers by brigands. Sultan's deputy is ready to liberate the brigand's brother, who is in prison at Tangier, subject to consent of Spanish Government ..	70
119	Mr. W. Smith ..	Telegraphic	17,	Capture of British officers by brigands. Reports. Desirable that Governor of Ceuta should take no steps involving danger to the captives ..	70

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
120	Mr. W. Smith .	Telegraphic	Oct. 17, 1905	Capture of British officers by brigands. Refers to No. 118. They are held as hostages for release of their captor's brother who is in Tangier prison. Moorish Government will release him provided that Spanish Government raise no objections..	71
121	Vice-Admiral Sir W. May to Admiralty	412 Tel.	17,	Capture of British officers by brigands. Valiente, the Moorish brigand, will only release the officers in exchange for his brother, who is in prison in Tangier ..	71
122	„ „	413 Tel.	17,	Capture of British officers by brigands. Reports departure of Mr. White for Tangier ..	71
123	To Sir A. Nicolson ..	77 Tel.	17,	Capture of British officers by brigands. Spanish Government should avoid any action involving danger to the captives	71
124	Sir F. Boothby .	183	18,	Delcassé incident. Vienna press supports German press (see No. 115)	72
125	Sir A. Nicolson ..	179 Confidential	15,	France and Germany. French Ambassador instructed to assure Sir A. Nicolson that no secret arrangement between the two countries had been come to (see No. 110) ..	72
126	Vice-Admiral Sir W. May to Admiralty	415 Tel.	17,	Capture of British officers by brigands. Has asked Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier to request release of Valiente's brother (see No. 123) .	73
127	Sir A. Nicolson ..	79 Tel.	18,	Capture of British officers by brigands. Has addressed note to Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting Spanish Government to liberate the brigand's brother	73
128	„ „ ..	80 Tel.	18,	Capture of British officers. Spanish Minister at Tangier has been instructed to consent to release of brigand's brother	73
129	To Sir H. Howard .	92	18,	Officers for the new police force in Morocco. His Majesty's Government cannot commit themselves to support appointment of Dutch to such posts till proposals have been considered by the Conference ..	73
130	Vice-Admiral Sir W. May to Admiralty	419 Tel.	18,	Capture of British officers. Governor of Anghera is starting out to release captives (see No. 128)	74
131	Mr. White.. ..	Telegraphic	19,	Capture of British officers. Has requested one of His Majesty's ships be detailed to convey instructions to Ceuta to hand over the captives and to effect an exchange if necessary	74
132	Vice-Admiral Sir W. May to Admiralty	Telegraphic	19,	Capture of British officers. Refers to No. 131. Has sent His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" for service required	74
133	To Sir A. Nicolson ..	81 Tel.	19,	Capture of British officers. Thanks Spanish Government for their prompt action in the matter	75
134	To Mr. White ..	Telegraphic	19,	Capture of British officers. Employment of force to obtain release might involve danger and should not be authorized	75
135	Mr. Lowther .	251	1,	Reduction of pay in Moorish Government service. Pay of soldiers and salaries of officials all considerably reduced owing to depleted condition of Treasury. Desertions will probably be numerous	75

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
136	Mr. Lowther ..	252 Confidential	Oct. 2, 1905	Makhzen's letter to the tribes. Refers to No. 81. French Government will take no action concerning	76
137	Mr. W. Smith ..	19 Commercial	6,	Shipping at Tangier. Transmits Memorandum on above during first six months of 1905 ..	76
138	„ „ ..	..	7,	Proposed mole at Tangier. Conversation with French Chargé d'Affaires on subject of the claims of the two rival French and German Companies to construct (see No. 99) ..	78
139	„ „ ..	..	9,	State of affairs in Morocco. Movements of Reisouli. Murder of Sid Abdselam Saidi, Governor of district contiguous to Ceuta, and of his son (see No. 101)	79
140	„ „ ..	21 Commercial	12,	Tangier harbour works. German concessionnaires to commence work shortly. Gives details of (see No. 138)	80
141	Mr. White.. ..	Telegraphic	20,	Capture of British officers. Arrangements made to exchange British officers for Moorish prisoners (see No. 134) ..	81
142	Sir A. Nicolson ..	180	17,	Capture of British officers. Action of the Spanish Government in the matter. Their co-operation recommended (see No. 133) ..	81
143	Mr. Lowther ..	102 Tel.	16,	Communication of programme to Sultan. French and German Ministers have agreed on text and present notes to-day (see No. 114)	82
144	„ „ ..	104 Tel.	19,	Programme. Sultan has informed French (and presumably German) Ministers of acceptance, and agrees to Algeciras as meeting-place (see Nos 56 and 143) ..	82
145	Mr. White ..	Telegraphic	22,	Capture of British officers. Failure of the expedition of His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder." Refers to No. 141. Shereef of Wazan agrees to act as intermediary. Moorish officials willing to pay ransom if necessary	82
146	Mr. W. Smith ..	..	12,	Tangier harbour works. German Chargé d'Affaires says title of German firm has been found superior to French firms and work will be at once begun (see No. 140) .	83
147	„ „ ..	..	14,	State of affairs in Morocco. Moderation of Government in collecting the taxes. Local disturbance between Sallee and Mehedia owing to attempt of a party of Frenchmen to establish a store depôt there. Hunger in Mazagan district	83
148	„ „ ..	..	14,	Destruction of Moorish ruins near Ceuta by the Spanish authorities, who took the opportunity afforded by their having been the scene of the murder of Kaïd Abdselam Saidi (see No. 139)	83
149	Sir F. Lascelles ..	248	15,	Relations between England, France, and Germany. German press comments on the articles in the "Matin"	84
150	„ „ ..	249	16,	Relations between England, France, and Germany. Transmits extract from the "North German Gazette" on (see No. 109) ..	84

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
151	Sir F. Lascelles ..	252 Confidential	Oct. 20, 1905	Anglo-German relations. Conversation with Baron Richthofen on mutual mistrust between the two countries	85
152	Sir A. Nicolson ..	181	19,	Capture of British officers. Refers to No. 127. Text of his note to Spanish Minister of State respecting liberation of captives	86
153	Mr. Lowther ..	103 Tel.	19,	Capture of British officers. Sid Torres has been granted full powers to treat with the brigands	87
154	Vice-Admiral Sir W. May to Admiralty	Telegraphic	22,	Liberation of British officers. Reports. Five prisoners are released in exchange, and ten rifles with 10,000 rounds of ammunition given to Valiente	87
155	Mr. White . ..	Telegraphic	23,	Capture of British officers. Sum of 300*l.* 5*s.* claimed against the Moorish Government ..	87
156	„ „ .. .	Telegraphic	23,	Capture of British officers. Desire is expressed that brigands should be punished.. ..	88
157	To Mr. White .	57 Tel.	23,	Capture of British officers. Brigands should be punished	88
158	Mr. White.. .	Telegraphic	24,	Capture of British officers. Representations for punishment of brigands will be made to Sultan direct	88
159	To Mr. White ..	58 Tel.	24,	Capture of British officers. Claim in connection with release of officers to be presented to Moorish Government	88
160	„ „ ..	59 Tel.	24,	Release of British Officers. His Majesty's Government expresses thanks to Shereef of Wazan	88
161	Admiralty	..	25,	Capture of British officers. Account of the events preceding and action taken by Commander-in-chief Atlantic Fleet	89
162	Mr. White	Telegraphic	26,	Capture of British officers. Cheque for the sum claimed has been handed in by Sid Torres	91
163	Mr. Lowther ..	254	17,	Morocco Conference. Draft programme agreed upon and presented in identic form, and almost simultaneously by the French and German Ministers to the Sultan ..	91
164	„ „ ..	257 Confidential	19,	Morocco Conference. Audience of the French and German Ministers with Sultan, informing latter of the programme for the Conference and of the selection of Algeciras as the place of meeting	91
165	Mr. White.. ..	..	22,	Capture of British officers. Account of the capture and of the negotiations and action resulting in their release	92
166	„ „	..	22,	State of affairs in Morocco. Reports good rains have fallen, which may pacify the people	95
167	Sir A. Nicolson ..	190 Confidential	26,	Prospects of Conference and Spanish attitude. Conversation with M. Rouvier. Difficulty as to policing the ports anticipated. Desire of Spain for good understanding with France and Great Britain	95
168	Count Metternich ..	..	28,	Conference. Transmits Franco-German Convention of 28th September and enquires whether His Majesty's Government will accept formal invitation (see No. 78)	95

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
169	Sir M. de Bunsen ..	18 Consular	Oct. 25, 1905	Alleged smuggling vessel at Lisbon. Gives details respecting. Vessel had been engaged in smuggling arms into Morocco . ..	97
170	Mr. Lowther ..	Telegraphic	25,	Murder of Mr. Madden. Refers to No. 95. Moorish Government have made grant of 2,000*l.* to the widow	98
171	To Mr. White ..	..	31,	Capture of British officers. His Majesty's Government approves of action taken throughout	98

ERRATA.

Page 8, No. 8. For "(No. 39)" read "(No. 89)."
Page 98, No. 170, line 1. For "telegram No. 99." read "telegram No. 98."

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

PART 27.

No. 1.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 222.)

My Lord, *Fez, August* 20, 1905.

NO official communication has yet been made to the Moorish Government by either the French or the German Ministers regarding the programme for the Conference, though I feel confident that some intimation has been given to the Makhzen by the latter as to the general bearing of it.

Although the Makhzen are in a somewhat unfriendly and aggressive mood, I am led to believe that they do not intend to offer any very serious objections to the programme, but will rely upon the deliberations of the Conference and upon such support as they can obtain there to reduce the scope of the reforms to a minimum.

They assert that they will support all the reforms provided that these are not carried out by one Power, but are distributed amongst the three or four having direct interests in Morocco, and provided they obtain an assurance from the Conference that all foreigners and protected persons will be submitted to taxation. They, indeed, seem to think that the Conference can be held within a reasonably short space of time. The Delegates to represent Morocco have, I am informed, been actually designated. There are to be four Delegates, of whom one only will be the spokesman.

Should the programme be finally accepted by the Sultan and his Government, I presume that I should then leave for Tangier as soon after as convenient.

Under these circumstances, I would propose to travel viâ Laraiche, if a vessel of war could conveniently be sent to that port to convey the Mission to Tangier.

It would always be possible to give the Governor of Gibraltar a week's notice of the date of my proposed arrival at Laraiche.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 2.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 223.)

My Lord, *Fez, August* 22, 1905.

THE German Minister, who called upon me this morning, rather went out of his way to assure me that he had not communicated to the Moorish Government the text or substance of the proposed programme for the Conference, and did not know in what light it was viewed by the Makhzen.

This is somewhat singular, as the Moorish Government rarely obtain news that is

not public property through outside channels, and neither the French Minister nor myself have mentioned it in Government circles.

From another source I understand that the language held by the German Minister to the Moorish Government is to the effect that the programme to be submitted to the Conference is merely a skeleton one, the acceptance of which will in no way commit them to anything, and therefore he advises them to accept without raising any difficulties. The Conference once met, they can raise all the objections that may appear to them advisable, and they can rely upon the support of the German Government.

Count Tattenbach, in talking to me this morning of the programme, said that, although it was very sketchy, he saw no objection whatever to it, and although he was not versed in financial matters, he saw in the proposal for a State Bank possibilities for a very considerable benefit to the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 3.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Fez, August* 22, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 42 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of the reply I have now received from the Commissioner of the Moorish Government, acknowledging the note containing the acceptance of His Majesty's Government to the invitation of the Moorish Government to be present at a Conference to discuss the reforms to be introduced into this country.

This note, coming, as it does, after so long an interval, is, I feel convinced, intended to accentuate the intention or desire of the Moorish Government that the Conference should be held at Tangier, especially as I believe that until quite recently it has never occurred to the Makhzen that their wishes in this direction would meet with any objection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Mr. Lowther.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

I RECEIVED your reply dated the 15th ultimo (19th July), concerning the Conference which His Shereefian Majesty has resolved to hold. You state that your respected Government considers it desirable to be represented at this Conference, and expects to be informed as to the matters which are to be discussed thereat, and as to the place and date of meeting, &c. I took note of this and have to inform your Excellency that the matters to be discussed are those contained in my letter of the 25th Rabia I (30th May), which also contained the notification that the place for the meeting of the said Conference is Tangier. As regards the date—it will be fixed when the rest of the replies of the friendly Representatives to the letters addressed to them on this subject are received.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

Fez, 19 *Jumad II*, 1323 (*August* 21, 1905).

No. 4.

Papers communicated by M. Geoffray, September 1, 1905.

(1.)

Prince Radolin to M. Rouvier.

Le 25 *Août*, 1905.

EN réponse à la lettre du 1er de ce mois j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que c'est avec intérêt que le Gouvernement Impérial a pris connaissance des propositions du Gouvernement Français, et qu'il les a soumises à un examen minutieux. A la vive satisfaction du Gouvernement Impérial le résultat de cet examen a été que les propositions peuvent être regardées comme une base acceptable pour les délibérations de la Conférence aussi bien en ce qui concerne leur nombre que leur contenu. Particulièrement le Gouvernement Impérial se range à l'avis du Gouvernement Français que le programme de la Conférence devrait être sommaire, et qu'il devrait s'abstenir d'entrer dans les détails afin de préjuger le moins possible les résolutions de la Conférence.

Si le Gouvernement Français se réfère à la note du 6 Juillet en ce qui concerne son concours à l'exécution des réformes à faire, le Gouvernement Impérial se permet de faire remarquer qu'il n'a reçu cette note qu'au moment lorsque ses dernières propositions au sujet d'échange de notes Franco-Allemandes étaient déjà parties. Par conséquent le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pu préciser sa manière de voir au sujet de ces propositions, et il en a informé le Gouvernement Français. L'accord entre les deux Gouvernements a donc été amené sans se référer à cette note, et le Gouvernement Impérial espère qu'aussi maintenant une entente puisse se faire sans avoir recours à la dite note.

Quant aux propositions du Gouvernement Français en détail le Gouvernement Impérial se permet d'expliquer sa manière de voir par ce qui suit:—

1. Le Gouvernement Impérial est d'accord avec le Gouvernement de la République que l'organisation d'une police sure dans les lieux les plus importants du Maroc, proposée sous le § 1 du projet de programme, serait le meilleur moyen pour obtenir la pacification du pays. Pourtant, le choix des endroits ne devrait pas figurer, comme il a été proposé, dans le programme, mais, conformément au principe général recommandé par la France, il devrait être réservé à la Conférence pour éviter autant que possible d'entrer en détails.

Le Gouvernement Français désire réserver l'organisation de la police dans les districts-frontière à l'arrangement particulier entre la France et le Maroc, cette affaire ayant été traitée depuis cinquante ans comme affaire exclusivement Franco-Marocaine. En tant que le Gouvernement Impérial connaît les arrangements concernant la frontière entre la France et le Maroc, il existe des stipulations sur l'organisation de la police dans les districts-frontière du Maroc, portant que le Maroc est tenu à entretenir à certains endroits des postes de police qui, le cas échéant, doivent concourir avec les postes du côté Français. Les postes de police Marocains sont sujets à l'influence du Maroc, puisque leur organisation et administration ne regarde que le Gouvernement Marocain. Il paraît donc tout naturel que l'état des choses ressortant d'une telle organisation de la police frontière soit réservé à un arrangement entre la France et le Maroc.

Si, cependant, il serait question d'organiser l'administration de la police Marocaine dans les districts-frontière de la même manière comme cela a été pris en vue pour les autres parties de l'Empire Chérifien, il serait à examiner si une telle organisation n'aurait pas besoin d'une sanction internationale par la Conférence; et cela d'autant plus qu'il ne serait peut-être pas sans inconvénient de subvenir à l'entretien de la police-frontière, conformément au programme de la Conférence (*sub* 2, al. 3), par les crédits ouverts au Maghzen, sans que la Conférence participât à la fixation de l'étendue de l'obligation d'entretien.

Il serait naturellement à tenir compte de la situation particulière dans laquelle la France se trouve comme pays limitrophe du Maroc, par la proposition qu'un mandat de la Conférence pour l'organisation de la police de frontière ne pourrait être concédé à aucune autre Puissance qu'à la France. Un tel mandat serait à donner, en ce qui concerne son contenu, dans la même forme comme le mandat pour l'organisation de la police dans les autres parties de l'Empire Marocain, et accorderait ainsi à la France une base universellement reconnue pour la sécurité de sa frontière.

2. Le Gouvernement de la République propose *sub* 1 et 2 du projet de programme, comme objet des délibérations: "Surveillance et répression de la contrebande des armes par mer." Elle justifie cette proposition avec la remarque que la surveillance de l'introduction illégale des armes devrait être confiée à des mains plus vigoureuses qu'à celles du Gouvernement Chérifien. Le Gouvernement Impérial se rallie également à cette proposition et croit seulement devoir observer que les stipulations de la Conférence, pour être efficaces, devraient viser la contrebande des armes par terre et par mer. Une stipulation restreignant uniquement l'introduction des armes par mer serait à même de repousser la contrebande d'armes à la voie par terre. Le programme de la Conférence aurait, dès lors, à prendre en vue un règlement uniforme de l'introduction des armes par toutes les frontières du pays.

On pourrait tenir compte dans le programme des points mentionnés *sub* 1 et 2 en rayant, dans le titre de la Partie 1re, les mots "hors de la région frontière," &c.; dans le No. 1, les mots: "à Tanger, Larache, Rabat, et Casablanca," et dans le No. 2, les mots: "par mer."

3. Le Gouvernement Impérial accepte également les réformes financières et commerciales proposées *sub* 2 et 3 du projet de programme. Particulièrement il lui paraît comme une idée bien juste que la Banque Marocaine qui doit être créée doit avoir un caractère international tant par sa direction que par la participation du capital. Pour l'exécution des réformes financières il serait recommandable d'ajouter au programme de la Conférence les délibérations sur un meilleur rendement des impôts et la création de nouveaux revenus, particulièrement en ce qui concerne les propriétés foncières.

4. Le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pas d'autre supplement à proposer au programme de la Conférence. Mais il se réserve sa décision dans le cas où de telles propositions seraient faites d'un autre côté.

5. Le Gouvernement de la République, jusqu'à présent, ne s'est pas prononcé d'une manière définitive s'il est d'accord que, conformément à l'invitation du Sultan, la Conférence se réunisse à Tanger. Le Gouvernement Impérial est d'avis qu'il faut maintenir Tanger comme lieu de la Conférence, parce que les questions à résoudre ne peuvent être bien jugées qu'au Maroc même et que pour leur examen il est indispensable de recourir à des personnes connaissant les lieux.

Le Gouvernement Impérial se plaît à espérer que les considérations précitées seront approuvées par le Gouvernement de la République, et que de cette façon l'accord relatif au programme de la Conférence désiré par les deux Gouvernements soit conclu. Dans ce cas le Gouvernement Impérial est tout disposé à donner de suite les instructions nécessaires à son Ministre à Fez pour que, d'accord avec le Ministre de France, il donne à Sa Majesté le Sultan des conseils pour le programme de la Conférence.

A la fin de la lettre en date du 1er de ce mois, votre Excellence se référant à deux lettres privées des 29 et 31 Juillet a fait des observations relatives au Ministre Comte de Tattenbach, parce que celui-ci, par des stipulations avec le Sultan, aurait procuré des avantages particuliers à des entrepreneurs Allemands au Maroc.

Comme j'avais l'honneur de le faire remarquer à votre Excellence, le Gouvernement Impérial, de même que le Gouvernement de la République, est fermement décidé à ne pas se procurer d'avantages économiques ou autres avant la réunion de la Conférence par des négociations particulières avec le Sultan. En ce qui concerne les détails mentionnés dans vos lettres j'ai l'honneur de me référer aux éclaircissements que j'ai donnés dans l'entre-temps.

(2.)

M. Rouvier to Prince Radolin.

Paris, le 30 Août, 1905.

PAR sa lettre en date du 25 de ce mois votre Altesse veut bien me faire connaître les observations que le Gouvernement Impérial croit devoir formuler en réponse aux propositions du Gouvernement de la République concernant le programme de la Conférence Marocaine.

Ces observations portent sur trois points:—

I.—*Organisation de la Police.*

Le Gouvernement Impérial propose de supprimer du libellé du paragraphe 1er du Titre I le membre de phrase "hors de la région frontière, c'est-à-dire, hors des districts où elle est réglée par un accord Franco-Marocain."

Le Gouvernement Impérial ne méconnaît pas que la police de la frontière doive être réservée à un arrangement Franco-Marocain, mais il envisage l'hypothèse où "il serait question d'organiser la police Marocaine dans les districts-frontière d'une manière identique à celle qui est prévue pour les autres parties de l'Empire Chérifien," et il se demande "si une telle organisation n'aurait pas besoin d'une sanction internationale par la Conférence," notamment en raison de l'affectation éventuelle à cette organisation d'une partie des crédits ouverts au Maghzen et dont la Conférence doit préciser les moyens de controler l'emploi.

La police sur la frontière Franco-Marocaine est réglée par des usages traditionnels, des Traités et des Conventions successifs qui n'ont cessé d'être et doivent rester l'affaire exclusive des deux pays. Les conditions et rapports de voisinage assignent à cette police un rôle spécial, ils en déterminent et justifient le régime, et ne permettent pas de concevoir que ce régime puisse être établi ou modifié autrement que par le seul accord des deux pays voisins.

Les règles que la Conférence posera pour l'organisation de la police hors de la région frontière pourront fournir d'utiles indications aux deux pays, s'imposer même à eux par l'autorité qu'elles emprunteront à leur origine, mais elles ne sauraient les lier ni entraver leur liberté d'action dans un domaine tout différent, où l'intérêt international est suffisamment sauvegardé par les principes de l'indépendance du Sultan et de l'intégrité de son territoire, auxquels la France a donné mieux que son adhésion, des gages déjà historiques de son attachement.

Nous avons un trop grand intérêt à ce qu'il ne puisse subsister aucun doute sur la manière dont nous envisageons le droit, essentiel à l'égard de la France, que je viens de définir, pour pouvoir accéder à la suppression demandée par le Gouvernement Impérial.

Nous accepterions toutefois de substituer à la rédaction proposée la rédaction suivante: "Hors de la région frontière où elle est réglée et continuera à l'être par l'entente directe des deux pays voisins."

Sous réserve des observations précédentes le Gouvernement de la République accepte que le choix des endroits où la police sera organisée ne figure pas dans le programme proposé et consent à la radiation des mots "à Tanger, Larache, Rabat, et Casablanca."

II.—*Surveillance de la Contrebande des Armes.*

Le Gouvernement de la République accepte que les stipulations de la Conférence visent la contrebande des armes par terre et par mer, sous réserve que l'application dans la région frontière du règlement ainsi élaboré restera l'affaire exclusive des deux pays.

En ce qui concerne les réformes financières et commerciales le Gouvernement de la République enregistre avec satisfaction l'adhésion du Gouvernement Impérial à ses propositions formulées sous les Titres II et III du projet. Les conditions d'organisation et de fonctionnement de la Banque d'État doivent être laissées aux délibérations de la Conférence.

Le Gouvernement de la République accepterait d'ajouter au programme de la Conférence l'étude d'un meilleur rendement des impôts et de la création de nouveaux revenus, mais sous réserve de n'en point faire une condition des autres réformes.

Le Gouvernement de la République fait ses réserves au sujet de toute proposition complémentaire qui serait produite d'autre part.

En résumé l'accord complet sur le projet de programme ne tient plus désormais entre les deux Gouvernements qu'au maintien dans le paragraphe relatif à l'organisation de la police de la réserve concernant les droits spéciaux de la France en ce qui concerne la police de la frontière. La suppression de cette réserve ne répondrait pas au sentiment du Gouvernement Impérial, puisqu'il reconnaît d'une façon générale les droits qu'elle garantit, et sur l'étendue desquels il lui est d'ailleurs loisible de conserver son interprétation. Rien ne semble donc plus s'opposer à ce que nous prescrivions sans délai à nos deux Répresentants de procéder en commun aux démarches nécessaires pour faire accepter par le Sultan le projet de programme dont ci-joint le texte. Je suis prêt pour ma part, dès que je recevrai avis conforme de votre Altesse, à adresser télégraphiquement à l'Agent de la France des instructions en ce sens.

Le Gouvernement de la République se serait volontiers rallié à la réunion de la

Conférence à Tanger, proposée par le Gouvernement Marocain, s'il n'en avait été détourné par les considérations suivantes :—

L'expérience démontre que c'est précisément à Tanger que les questions de l'ordre de celles qui vont être débattues, ont le moins de chances d'être résolues en raison, tant du milieu que des influences locales. Les Puissances n'ont pu aboutir à un accord sur les points réglés par la Conférence de 1880 que lorsque la discussion, après deux années d'infructueux efforts, en eut été transportée hors du Maroc, sans que cela ait présenté d'ailleurs le moindre inconvénient pour la bonne information des Plénipotentiaires.

Les conditions favorables dans lesquelles se sont développées les travaux de la Conférence de 1880, auxquels le Gouvernement Impérial s'est spécialement référé lorsqu'il a proposé la nouvelle Conférence, leur heureuse issue, après des prémisses plutôt contraires, nous engagent à recourir de nouveau à une hospitalité que l'Espagne peut revendiquer presque comme une tradition.

Il est manifeste d'autre part que l'état de trouble et d'insécurité de l'Empire Chérifien, qui s'est, notamment dans la région de Tanger, singulièrement aggravé, constituerait à lui seul une raison suffisante pour que la Conférence ne siégeât pas dans cette ville. Les délibérations des Représentants des Puissances, suivies de plus près et avec plus de curiosité, de passion même, par la population indigène, la présence d'éléments de protection que la prudence pourrait commander, risquent de soulever des explosions de fanatisme qui mettent en danger les Représentants des Puissances et leurs nationaux et ressortissants non seulement à Tanger mais encore dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire Chérifien.

En conséquence nous proposons pour lieu de réunion de la Conférence, Madrid, ou telle ville Espagnole qui semblerait mieux convenir par sa proximité plus grande du Maroc.

P.S.—La question de la concession du port de Tanger et de l'emprunt, auxquelles se réfèrent les derniers paragraphes de la lettre de votre Altesse, ont fait l'objet de plusieurs communications écrites du Gouvernement Français, soit à votre Altesse, soit a la Chancellerie de Berlin par l'entremise de M. Bihourd.

Je suis donc fondé à attendre du Gouvernement Impérial une réponse aux propositions formulées dans ma lettre adressée à votre Altesse en date du 25 Août et dans la note jointe.

L'adhésion donnée par le Gouvernement Impérial au principe de l'adjudication en matière de travaux publics me permet de penser qu'il accueillera ma suggestion en ce qui concerne la concession du port de Tanger que le Comte de Tattenbach a conclu presque au même moment où le Gouvernement Impérial, saisi de notre projet de programme, en adoptait ce point particulier.

Quant à l'emprunt négocié par les banques Allemandes, l'accord aujourd'hui certain entre nous au sujet du programme permettant de considérer la réunion de la Conférence comme très prochaine, les raisons que nous avons exposées pour que le Gouvernement Impérial s'emploie à faire abandonner cette opération n'en ont que plus de force, et nous exprimons la confiance qu'elles prévaudront auprès de lui.

Annexe.

Projet de Programme.

I.—*Organisation de la Police hors de la Région Frontière, où elle est réglée et continuera à l'être par l'Entente directe des deux Pays voisins.*

1. Création de corps de troupes Marocains pour la police.
2. Surveillance et répression de la contrebande des armes.

II.—*Réforme Financière.*

Concours financier donné au Maghzen par la création d'une Banque d'État avec privilège d'émission, se chargeant des opérations de Trésorerie, s'entremettant pour la frappe de la monnaie, dont les bénéfices appartiendront au Maghzen.

La Banque d'État procéderait à l'assainissement de la situation monétaire.

Les crédits ouverts au Maghzen seraient employés à l'équipement et à la solde des troupes de police et à certains travaux publics urgents, notamment à l'amélioration des ports et de leur outillage.

III.—*Engagement par le Maghzen de n'aliéner aucun des Services Publics au Profit d'Intérêts particuliers.*

Principe de l'adjudication, sans acceptation de nationalité, pour les travaux publics.

No. 5.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, August 28, 1905.*

ARRESTED Algerian: My immediately preceding telegram of the 23rd instant.

The Algerian has been released: on what conditions I have not yet been able to ascertain.

No. 6.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 1.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September 1, 1905.*

ARRESTED Algerian.

The French Government, so Count Saint Aulaire informs me, will not be satisfied with the Algerian's release as a settlement of their demands, and he hinted that an apology from the Moorish Government at Fez would probably be demanded by M. Saint-René Taillandier.

Ben Sliman has written to the French Minister that his Government considers all Algerians residing in Morocco as under their jurisdiction, and it was only as an act of courtesy to the French Government that the Sultan had released this man. The Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs added that when the Conference was held his Government intended to lay this matter before it.

No. 7.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 2.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August 27, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I saw Count Saint-Aulaire yesterday morning, when he told me that he had received a telegram from M. Rouvier, containing instructions to M. Saint-René Taillandier at Fez to obtain an audience of the Sultan, and to inform His Majesty that he would withdraw his Mission from Fez within eight days unless the French demands respecting the release of the imprisoned Algerian should have been previously complied with.

M. Rouvier further instructed the French Minister to leave M. Gaillard, the French Consul at Fez, to continue negotiations in connection with the Conference, in conjunction with Mr. Lowther.

It would seem probable that these instructions must have been dispatched from Paris prior to the arrival there of a telegram from M. Saint-René Taillandier, informing M. Rouvier of the receipt of a written reply of the Maghzen refusing the French demands, and in which the French Minister recommends the withdrawal from Fez of all Europeans with a view of active measures being taken.

M. de Saint-Aulaire observed that he considered that a public apology for the insult offered should be exacted from the Moorish Government in addition to the other demands put forward by M. Saint-René Taillandier, and reported in Mr. Lowther's despatch No. 216 of the 12th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 8.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, August* 30, 1905.

MR. WYLDBORE SMITH'S telegram of the 16th instant separate.

Arrested Algerian.

To-day M. Saint-René Taillandier wrote to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs demanding an apology, and stating that unless the Sultan complied with his previous demands he would leave Fez on the 5th September.

The Moorish Government will be without doubt much surprised at the matter being taken so seriously by the French Government, as they consider that their case is a very good one. I think personally that they will agree to the French Government's demands, but M. Saint-René Taillandier is inclined to doubt if they will give way.

For the purpose of conducting the negotiations with reference to the Conference, the French Consul, M. Gaillard, will be left behind at Fez.

No. 9.

Mr. Lister to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 323.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 1, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an official note, in connection with the arrest of the Algerian, Si Bou M'Zian, which was communicated yesterday afternoon to the French press through the Havas Agency.

M. Rouvier, when I saw him on Wednesday, had not as yet received any information, but he told me that the French Government were determined to make the necessary demonstration as soon as M. de Saint-René Taillandier and his party had got safely away from Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Extract from the "Le Matin" of September 1, 1905.

D'APRÈS un télégramme de M. Saint-René Taillandier, parvenu ce matin au Quai d'Orsay, le Maghzen a relâché Si Bou M'Zian et l'a remis à notre Vice-Consulat; mais le Gouvernement Marocain a accompagné la remise de Si Bou M'Zian d'une lettre dont ni les termes ni les réserves ne sauraient être acceptés.

Cette mesure ne nous donne donc qu'une satisfaction apparente et l'affaire ne saurait être considérée comme réglée définitivement.

No. 10.

Mr. Lister to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 325.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 1, 1905.

AN official communiqué, copy of which is inclosed herein, was published in this evening's edition of "Le Temps," stating that the answer of the French Government to the last note of the German Chancellerie, relative to the programme of the Morocco Conference, was handed to Prince Radolin last night

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Extract from "Le Temps" of Septembre 2, 1905.

LA réponse du Gouvernement Français à la dernière note de la Chancellerie Allemande, relative au programme de la Conférence Marocaine, a été remise dans la soirée d'hier au Prince Radolin, Ambassadeur d'Allemagne à Paris.

No. 11.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Fez, August* 24, 1905.

FOR some weeks past the Sultan has been extending his hospitality to a body of about forty men of a southern tribe owing allegiance to the religious Sheikh, Ma-al-Ain.

These tribesmen, who have a very different appearance from the Moors of North Morocco, and wear a peculiar national dress, live in the neighbourhood of Saguiet-al-Hamra, Shingit, about 26° 40″ north latitude, roughly on a level with the Canary Islands, and are reputed to be very warlike.

Many reasons have been adduced for their present visit to the Moorish Court. Anyhow, it appears that the Sultan had some time ago dispatched a special Envoy, Uld Ben Aish, to the Sheikh, Ma-al-Ain, chartering a special steamer to convey him as far as Cape Juby. This Envoy has already returned to Mogador. The Sheikh, it is reported, asserted that he would treat the Sultan in the same way as the Sultan had treated him, and send a special Envoy to Fez. Hence the present mission under his son and Khalifa, the Shereef Uld Sheikh, Ma-al-Ain, who is intrusted with a verbal message for His Majesty of such importance and secrecy that it was considered imprudent to commit it to writing.

The more generally accepted theory among the Moors would seem to be that the real reason for the mission is the advance of the French from the south, they being only half-a-day's march from the territory of the Sheikh of the Adrar. Fights are indeed already said to have taken place in this district between the French and the Arabs.

A second theory is that the Sheikh is dissatisfied with the financial treatment accorded him by the Sultan, and threatens to go over to the French side if this is not bettered.

I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum by His Majesty's Vice-Consul here, giving a résumé of a conversation between a Moorish acquaintance of his and the Shereef Uld Sheikh, Ma-al-Ain, which Memorandum bears out the first theory mentioned above, namely, that negotiations are proceeding for the purpose of resisting French encroachments in the south.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Memorandum by Vice-Consul MacLeod.

LAST evening a Moor of my acquaintance visited the son of the Shereef Ma-al-Ain-al-Shingiti, who came recently to the Shereefian Court at his father's request.

Questioned as to what had occasioned his visit to Fez, Uld Ma-al-Ain stated as follows:—

We were living peacefully at our house, Saguiet-al-Hamra, Shingit,* when we heard recently that the French (French Christians, not Algerian tribesmen) had taken possession, violently, of part of a place called Taghanats-wa-ei-Gibbla. This place is thirty days' march from Saguiet-al-Hamra, and the principal man there is Hamed Wuld Aîda. He wrote to us that he had set out upon a "Jihad" (holy war) against the French, for they had been encroaching on the tribes thereabouts, and appealed to us to follow and assist him. The French, he said, meant to seize the whole country bit by bit, and so we should all be on our guard. We replied that we had almost no arms, but we then communicated with the Sultan, and I came to Fez to get arms and other assistance from the Sultan.

Since reaching Fez I have heard from Hamed Wuld Aîda that he had surrounded the French at Taghanats-el-Gibbla, and cut off their water supply, and subsequently heard of the coming of a French convoy laden with arms, ammunition, and supplies. This they attacked and captured, many Frenchmen being killed thereat.

A certain Shereef of the tribe next to Taghanats-el-Gibbla, and which had been taken over by the French, decided to be avenged on them. He put arms under his clothes, and went to pay a visit of ceremony to the French commanding officer. He was kindly received, and taken into the officer's presence. He then fired on and killed the officer, but was himself killed by the French officer's attendants.

Uld Ma-al-Ain concluded by saying that he intended to leave Fez on Thursday or Saturday (24th or 26th instant), at which time it would be seen what the Sultan had given them in the way of arms, &c. So far, however, he had not received any.

Note.—There have been stories current in Fez these days that the Court meant to give large supplies of arms, &c., to Ma-al-Ain. The Sultan's stock of arms must now, however, be very small. Moreover, the cost and trouble of transport of such things from Fez to Shingit would be very great. I should not be surprised, therefore, if, should His Majesty really wish to arm these people, the Sultan were to order a quantity of arms, &c.—from Germany most likely—to be landed at some place comparatively near Shingit, such as Cape Juby for instance.

No. 12.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 226.)

My Lord, *Fez, August* 24, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 221 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean reporting further progress in the investigation of the Madden murder.

It is very regrettable that Mrs. Madden herself is so unreliable, and that she withheld from Mr. Maclean the fact that she had identified in prison the man who shot at her. Directly I heard that she had concealed this fact I pointed out to her how her action could only prove an obstacle to the discovery of the assassins.

There appears now to be four prisoners against whom there is strong suspicion but no conclusive evidence, and Mr. Maclean states that it is not probable that the truth will ever be arrived at unless the Governor is suspended.

As I have already pointed out, owing to his influence at Court this will be impossible to obtain, and although Mr. Maclean dwells on the Governor being useless and there may be some suspicion that he is indirectly associated with the criminals, yet Mr. Maclean has brought no specific charge against him which would justify me in officially inviting the Sultan to recall him.

* Latitude (*circa*) 26° 40″ north; longitude (*circa*) 13° 40″ west of Paris.

The suspicion being now strong against the men in prison it is probable that at any moment the crime may be brought home to one or all of them. It will then be necessary to determine what is the satisfaction His Majesty's Government will demand, and on this point I desire your Lordship's instructions.

Should the four men be found guilty of having participated in the murder it will hardly be possible to ask for the execution of the four, nor will it be easy to establish which of the four actually brought about Mr. Madden's death, except by a confession or by some of the prisoners turning King's evidence.

The imprisonment during His Shereefian Majesty's pleasure of the four men will produce but little effect and be insufficient to meet the case. If possible it is very desirable that one life should be given, and in that event the presence of a man-of-war at Mazagan for a few days would be very desirable, if not indispensable. She could ostensibly be sent there to see that the sentence is carried out, but would also serve as a protection to the English community in the event of anything in the nature of a rising of the people occurring.

Then we come to the question of an indemnity.

The widow of Mr. Madden is left possessed of a capital of about 500*l.*

It would not, in my opinion, be unreasonable to invite the Moorish Government, even if they did not spontaneously make an offer, to give her a gratuity of 2,000*l.* to enable her to live. A gratuity of some kind there should not be much difficulty in obtaining. In the case of the murder of one German subject the Moorish Government paid 72,000 marks. They latterly also in another case paid 2,000*l.* and granted a concession to a German firm, but in this latter case the assassin was only imprisoned.

In the case of the murder of the Englishman Cooper at Fez the murderer was shot, and the Sultan voluntarily gave a grant of 1,000*l.*

It may appear to your Lordship somewhat premature to consider the punishment and indemnity to be asked before the perpetrators of the deed have been actually found guilty. I have, however, purposely submitted the matter thus early for your Lordship's consideration, because it appears to me that if any of the prisoners are now found guilty it would be extremely desirable that I should be able to present the demands of His Majesty's Government before I leave Fez, though I would not suggest that I should necessarily remain here until they have been complied with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Consul Maclean to Mr. Lowther.

(Separate.)

Sir, *Mazagan, August* 19, 1905.

I HAD the honour to receive your despatch of the 10th instant last night relative to the Mazagan murder.

Cid El Hassan Boo Ashreen received orders to join Mulai Omar, and has left this morning.

Down to the present I do not know who has been appointed in his place.

Until hearing from your Excellency I was not aware that the widow had identified Mohamed Wold Mesod as the man who shot at her, and this man's appearance does not answer description originally given by Mrs. Madden.

On the night of the 13th instant the Governor and Boo Ashreen both denied that the murderer had been identified.

On the 16th instant Miss Carleton visited me on other business, and when I put the question to her she first denied it, and then offered to be perfectly frank.

She said the Governor had sent for them one night, and her sister had looked through a crevice at a man in a room lighted by a candle, and immediately identified him. They promised the Governor not to tell a single soul, but she had written to inform her brother in Fez.

After Miss Carleton left the Consulate, and on the same afternoon, the Governor told Boo Ashreen to tell me that the widow had identified the prisoner.

When I saw his Excellency later he explained that the widow and Miss Carleton had begged him to be allowed to see if she could recognize this particular man.

He did not tell me because he regarded the incident as informal and unofficial, but he reported to the Makhzen.

The main point is that this particular man was identified, and on Mrs. Madden's return I will take down her deposition on oath.

Last night I invited the Governor to tell me which men Sid Abdelkrim was alluding to when he informed your Excellency that two of the murderers were in prison, and two were at large in the Oolad Boazez tribe.

The Governor replied that he supposed the two refugees were Abdrahman-ben-Yussef and Boo Ali-el-Feerjie, and the two prisoners were Mohamed Wold Mesod and Booshaib-ben-Naami.

He had no evidence against these men beyond what I was aware of. This means that, with the exception of the man identified by the widow, their guilt still rests only on suspicion, supported by a certain amount of circumstantial evidence, which is not conclusive.

The two refugees have always been in Oolad Furj, not in Oolad Boazez.

On the 16th instant the efforts of this Consulate were successful in obtaining the arrest of the two men mentioned in the statement of Sid-ben-Tahar, viz., Hamed-ben-Bwee and Mesod Wold Embark-ben-Maishie of Oolad Boazez.

The evidence is not complete against these men, but there is a strong presumption that Ben Bwee was with Mohamed Wold Mesod, and all these belong to the same "doar," are related, and are well-known desperate characters.

The Sultan's authority appears to be ineffective everywhere outside the town, but there are means at the disposal of the authorities for seizing any particular individual.

I found the way for securing Mohamed Wold Mesod, Hamed-ben-Bwee, and Mesod Wold Embark-ben-Maishie, very soon after I discovered that they really seemed to be connected with the crime.

I believe that we have not nearly arrived at the whole truth, and that it is not probable that we shall arrive at it unless the Governor is superseded.

Your Excellency will be able to judge whether it is advisable to be satisfied with less than the truth.

The man of all others I should like to be nominated is Hadj Tibi Sabihee, the Head Amin here. I am sure that if he were given a free hand he would clear up the whole affair in a very short time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 13.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 227.)
My Lord, *Fez, August* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 226 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that on receipt of Mr. Consul Maclean's despatch of the 19th, of which a copy is inclosed in the above-mentioned despatch, I instructed Mr. Irwin to call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and lay before his Excellency the renewed complaints made by Mr. Maclean regarding the action of the Governor of Mazagan in the Madden murder case and to again urge on his Excellency the advisability of removing that official.

His Excellency replied that the new Commissioner, Oold Cid Ali-el-Mesfiwi, is a very intelligent and active official, and that he has great hopes that he will deal satisfactorily with the matter with which he has been intrusted, and in view of Mr. Maclean's strong recommendation of the Ameen, Hadj Teebi Sabihi, his Excellency promised that instructions would be sent to him immediately to co-operate with El Mesfiwi in his investigation. His Excellency added that, should the Governor of Mazagan show any further disinclination to send any orders they might require of him, they were to send the orders themselves, and letters would be sent to Moulai-el-Abbas, the Commander of the Government troops in that district, and to Kaïd Aisa-ben-Omar to act on any such orders that may reach them.

His Excellency requested Mr. Irwin to again convey to me his assurances that both His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan and the Makhzen were most anxious that this matter should be concluded to the entire satisfaction of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 14.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 228.)
My Lord, *Fez, August* 26, 1905.

THE French Minister told me to-day that he had yesterday received the visit of Count Tattenbach, who greeted him with a geniality and cordiality which, for a long time past, had been wanting in the German Minister's manner towards him.

Without preface, he broached the subject of the arrest of the Algerian, El Meliani, by the Moorish Government, and the attitude taken up by the latter in this case, with which he expressed himself as entirely out of sympathy.

M. Saint-René Taillandier declined to discuss the case in any of its bearings, and merely stated that the case was in the hands of the French Government, whose decision he still awaited.

The German Minister returned to the subject three times, eventually stating that as he entirely shared the views of his French colleague in the matter, he would be very glad to give him his support with the Sultan and his Government. For this the French Minister expressed his thanks, and politely gave him to understand that the possibility of his availing himself of his offer was very remote.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

P.S.—Since writing this despatch, I have been informed that the German Minister has approached two of the Viziers and has argued the case of the Algerian, supporting the French theory.

G. L.

No. 15.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 4.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 29, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Abensur, the representative here of the German bankers concerned in the loan to the Sultan, told me this morning that the documents in connection with this transaction were sent to Fez yesterday for signature by the Sheikh Tazzi, the Finance Minister. M. Abensur observed that he had had to insert certain modifications in the terms which might possibly not meet with the immediate approval of the Makhzen, but that he had no doubt that the loan would soon be an accomplished fact.

I gathered from M. Abensur that the group of bankers had, by his advice, asked for and practically obtained an additional security for the loan in the shape of the Government lands situate at Dar-al-Baida.

The valuation of the Government of these properties, both at Tangier and at Dar-al-Baida, is not yet by any means accomplished, and I understand from M. Abensur that even when this valuation has been completed and an official catalogue of the properties drawn up, he would have to appoint his own experts to examine the system adopted by the Makhzen for fixing the various values and the bases taken for arriving at such valuation.

All this must naturally take some time, and it appears probable that the German banks would be prepared to make some preliminary advance as soon as the contract shall have been duly signed, the balance to be paid over as soon as the details of the valuation shall have been satisfactorily completed.

M. Abensur remarked that, from a commercial point of view, this loan was an unsatisfactory transaction, especially since, by the terms of the contract, it is redeemable in two years, and possibly within a very much shorter period, should the Makhzen become possessed of the means to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 16.

Mr. Cartwright to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, September* 4, 1905.

AFFAIRS of Morocco. Proposed Conference.

Your Lordship's despatch No. 585 of the 30th ultimo to Mr. Lister.

(Secret.)

I am informed most confidentially by the French Chargé d'Affaires, in the temporary absence of M. Cambon, that, on the 2nd instant, the proposals enumerated in the despatch referred to were offered and accepted in an exchange of letters between the French Ambassador and the President of the Council. The latter was evidently greatly pleased at the French proposals, as the written letters were drafted, signed, and exchanged on the same day that they were first communicated to him by M. Cambon.

The proposals were as stated in the despatch above referred to, with the following alterations:—

1. French officers were to be in command of the Tangier police for, I understand, the first fifteen years, after which period no provision was made.

2, There would be French police in Casablanca and Rabat.

3. During the first year the French would be in command of the naval squadron operating against contraband by sea.

As this information will be communicated to your Lordship by the French Ambassador in London, and, as the French Chargé d'Affaires is not authorized to make the communication to me, the latter hopes that your Lordship will consider it as secret.

No. 17.

Mr. Cartwright to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, September* 4, 1905.

AFFAIRS of Morocco. Proposed Conference.

(Confidential.)

My telegram No. 70 of to-day.

President of Council, whom I have just seen, made no mention of exchange of letters with M. Cambon, but seemed very pleased with the securities afforded to Spanish interests at the Conference by the French proposals. His Excellency hoped that every effort would be made to prevent the choice of Tangier as a place of meeting, and I gathered that he would welcome an indication of the intention of His Majesty's Government to give strong support to the proposal made, I understand, by M. Rouvier in reply to the last German note, that the Conference should meet in Spain.

No. 18.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 5.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, September* 1, 1905.

ARRESTED Algerian.

My telegram No. 89 of the 30th ultimo.

Ben Sliman told the Interpreter of the French Legation, who handed to him the French Minister's note on the evening of the 30th ultimo, that, in his opinion, the French demands must be conceded to by the Moorish Government. It was only after this afternoon's prayers that the note was to be communicated.

No. 19.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 5.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 5, 1905.

CONFERENCE on Morocco.

I am informed by the German Chargé d'Affaires that he is sending the First Dragoman of his Legation to Paris to-day; his presence is required with reference to the forthcoming Conference in order to give the German Ambassador there the benefit of his local knowledge.

No. 20.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 6.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 30, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that Count Saint-Aulaire called on me this afternoon to tell me that he had just received news from Fez that Bou Mzian Mliani, the Algerian imprisoned at Fez, was said to be very ill, and would in all probability be shortly released.

He went on to observe that he was afraid lest the prisoner's state of health might be used by the Maghzen as a pretext for his release, and that they would thereby appear not to have been influenced by the demands of the French Minister.

M. de Saint-Aulaire further requested me to inform both the "Times" and Reuter's correspondents here of the above, and also to let them clearly understand that, in his opinion, unless further reparation were exacted for the behaviour of the Moorish Government in calmly disregarding the French demands, they would be encouraged to bring about similar occurrences in future whenever it should please them to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 21.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, September* 2, 1905.

ARRESTED Algerian. My immediately preceding telegram.

No answer has, as yet, been received by the Moorish Government to the ultimatum presented by the French Minister. The latter has, in consequence of this delay, presented an additional demand, viz., that certain claims which were long ago admitted by the Moorish Government, and which amount to about 5,200*l.*, shall be immediately paid.

No. 22.

Mr. Cartwright to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 159. Confidential.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, September* 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, returned here a few days ago from Paris, and that he had an interview with the President of the Council on the 2nd instant. I called on his Excellency this morning, but found that he had left for a few days' stay at Biarritz, so, in his absence, I went to see M. de Margerie, the Councillor of the French Embassy. This gentleman informed me in

strict confidence—as he was not authorized to do so—that two days ago M. Cambon had communicated to Señor Montero Rios, the President of the Council, the views of the French Government with regard to certain points which will be dealt with at the approaching Morocco Conference, and which more particularly affect Spanish interests. These proposals, intended to safeguard Spanish interests in Morocco, were summarized in your Lordship's despatch No. 585 of the 30th ultimo to Mr. Lister.

It would appear that the proposals of the French Government were so acceptable to Señor Montero Rios that to M. Cambon's astonishment he expressed a wish that they should be at once put down on paper, and before the evening the notes which it was decided should be exchanged were drafted, signed, and delivered. The only alterations which were made in the proposals, as stated in your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch, were that the police of Casablanca and Rabat shall be French, and the police of Tangier shall be French and Spanish, but under French direction; and, as regards the naval squadron to prevent contraband by sea, it is stated that during the first year it will be under French command. This latter alteration was made by M. Cambon, as he felt doubts as to the possibility of Spain introducing an effective service during the first year.

M. de Margerie told me that in M. Cambon's opinion the exchange of these notes is a matter of some importance, as by them the hands of the Spanish Government will be bound at the Conference on those very points where a divergence of views might arise between the French and Spanish Plenipotentiaries, and this private settlement between France and Spain of disputed points of their Moroccan policy will prevent the intervention of Germany at the Conference to produce a breach between the two countries. M. Cambon has more than once expressed to me the fear that in this country, where changes of Ministry are so frequent, the Spanish Government of the moment might on account of its weakness, and from dread of creating complications, give way too much before pressure brought to bear on them from Berlin, but the present written engagements will prevent this, and at the Conference France, Great Britain, and Spain will work in perfect harmony on all important points.

M. de Margerie informs me that M. Cambon is of opinion that Herr von Radowitz, the German Ambassador, is in perfect ignorance that negotiations have been going on between the Spanish and French Governments for the purpose of arriving at an understanding with regard to the attitude they will assume at the Conference on matters which more particularly affect their respective interests, and that he is under the impression that M. Cambon's frequent interviews with Señor Montero Rios were for the purpose of discussing the programme of the Conference, as submitted to the German Government, and to settle the place of meeting of the Conference.

After seeing M. de Margerie, I called this afternoon on Señor Montero Rios, and had an interview with his Excellency. He expressed to me the great satisfaction he felt at the proposals made by the French Government to Spain with a view to satisfying her aspirations in Morocco, and to produce a harmonious working of France, Spain, and Great Britain at the Conference to resist the too aggressive attitude on the part of Germany, but his Excellency abstained from mentioning to me that he had come to a written engagement with M. Cambon on these matters. M. Montero Rios took the opportunity of my visit to beg me to thank your Lordship most warmly for the friendly attitude of His Majesty's Government to Spain. I think his Excellency is under the impression that the conciliatory terms which France has offered to Spain in Morocco, especially in the matter of the circulation of Spanish money in that country, are mainly due to your Lordship's friendly intervention in Paris in favour of Spain.

Turning to another point, the question of the place of meeting of the Conference, Señor Montero Rios urged again, as he never fails to do when I see him, the unsuitability of Tangier for that purpose, and I think his Excellency would be glad if your Lordship could see your way, officially or privately, to support at Berlin the proposal, now, I believe, for the first time officially put forward by M. Rouvier in his reply to the last German communication with regard to the programme of the Conference, that the Conference should be held in Spain.

I have received information from a good source that Señor Montero Rios is not only desirous of seeing the Conference held on Spanish soil from motives of national vanity and reasons of political expediency, but that he is also largely actuated by personal considerations.

On the 10th instant the general elections will take place, and although there is no doubt that the result will be that the Liberal party as a whole will have a large majority, it is not so certain that the group acknowledging Señor Montero Rios as its leader will return to the Cortes as strong as the present President of the Council would

like, and in that case a rearrangement of the Cabinet might become necessary. In this event Señor Montero Rios might have to retire from office. Should this happen, I am told that he would not be averse to accepting the Presidency of the Conference, as that position would give him the opportunity of making one of those oratorical displays at the opening sitting which have their political value in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FAIRFAX L. CARTWRIGHT.

No. 23.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 92. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, September 3, 1905.*

A CERTAIN official, holding a high position in the Moorish Government, admitted to M. Saint-René Taillandier yesterday that it was on the advice of Count Tattenbach that the Algerian had been arrested. The French Minister, however, states that the accuracy of this information cannot be relied on absolutely.

No. 24.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, September 7, 1905.*

MOROCCO. Arrest of Algerian.

I learn from a good source that Sultan of Morocco has given satisfaction to the French Government, a high official having been sent to the French Minister with an apology. The German Minister is said to be no longer in favour with the Sultan, and the satisfaction given is not due to his advice.

No. 25.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, September 7, 1905.*

MOROCCO. My telegram No. 56 of to-day.

Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that incident of the arrest of Algerian has been terminated. The Grand Vizier called on the French Minister and apologized on behalf of the Moorish Government, paid the indemnity demanded, and promised the punishment of the Kaïd responsible for the arrest.

No. 26.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 7.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September 7, 1905.*

I LEARN that all the demands of the French Minister at Fez on account of the arrested Algerian have been conceded by the Moorish Government. A full apology for the occurrence was made by the Grand Vizier on the 4th instant, who was sent to M. Saint-René Taillandier for this purpose.

No. 27.

Mr. Cartwright to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, September* 7, 1905.
AFFAIRS of Morocco. Proposed Conference.

(Secret.)
My telegram No. 70 of the 4th instant.
I saw M. Cambon this morning on his return, and he repeated the communication made to me by the French Chargé d'Affaires. His Excellency went on to say that the letter he had received from the President of the Council, after an assurance of the maintenance by his Government of the Franco-Spanish engagement of last year, ends by affirming their intention of affording the French and British Plenipotentiaries unqualified support at the Conference. M. Cambon had had some doubts as to the line that might be taken by Spain at the Conference under pressure from Berlin, and in view of the probability that the King's visit to Germany will take place before the Conference meets. He therefore attaches much importance to this written engagement.
M. Cambon is convinced that the German Ambassador, who is leaving to-day for Germany, knows nothing of this matter, and he begs therefore that it may be kept secret.

No. 28.

Mr. Cartwright to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastiau, September* 7, 1905.
AFFAIRS of Morocco. Proposed Conference.

(Confidential.)
I learn from M. Cambon that, in a recent conversation with German Ambassador as to place of meeting of Conference, and the undesirability of Tangier, the latter confessed that the selection of that place would be difficult to defend, but that Germany would have to do so as long as possible for form's sake.
In conversation with me last night the German Ambassador said that Germany would have to support French representations at Fez with regard to imprisonment of Algerian subject, but the contingency contemplated did not seem very welcome to his Excellency. He added that he considered the occurrence of such an incident at the present juncture as much to be regretted.

No. 29.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic. P.) *Fez, September* 4, 1905.
OF the five prisoners arrested in connection with the murder of Mr. Madden at Mazagan, there is strong evidence against one, and the other four have confessed.
As it is possible that the man who instigated the murder may yet be discovered, I would request your Lordship to defer for the present formulating demands to the Moorish Government.

No. 30.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, September* 4, 1905.
MY telegram No. 91 of the 2nd instant.
Arrested Algerian.
The Grand Vizier has offered an unqualified apology to the French Minister on behalf of the Moorish Government; the latter has given way on all points, some modification having been made in the sum to be paid on account of claims.

No. 31.

Mr. Cartwright to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 160.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, September* 6, 1905.
I HAVE the honour to report that, according to an announcement which appears in most of the Spanish newspapers, it is the intention of this Government to dispatch one or more ships of war to cruise off the coast of Melilla.
The press, generally, welcome this step on the part of the Government as likely to exercise a restraining influence on the adjacent tribes, and express the hope that a visit may be periodically repeated to waters which have for so long a time been neglected by the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FAIRFAX L. CARTWRIGHT.

No. 32.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 9.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 9, 1905.
DISTURBANCES around Tangier.
Considerable uneasiness is caused among the European residents here by the continued inter-tribal fighting which is now in progress within two miles of Tangier.
The Sultan's Deputy, in answer to my repeated representations as to the necessity for him to take whatever steps might be desirable for ensuring the safety of Europeans here, assures me that he has taken such steps. He maintains that the town is in no danger and that it is merely a quarrel between the neighbouring tribes.
I am given to understand that the two French men-of-war stationed in the bay have landing parties ready in case of emergency, and the situation is being carefully watched by Count Saint Aulaire.
As a precautionary measure, I would beg leave to suggest to your Lordship that one of the ships of war stationed at Gibraltar might be held in readiness so that, in case of necessity, it might be prepared to visit Tangier at short notice. On my mentioning this suggestion to the French Chargé d'Affaires he informed me that he entirely concurred in it.

No. 83.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 229.)
My Lord, *Fez, August* 28, 1905.
COUNT TATTENBACH, in talking over the programme for the Conference this morning, said that the modifications which his Government would probably propose to the French Government were insignificant, and could, he thought, be accepted without delay.
I said that I had recently heard that the Moorish Government were not likely to

be very obstructive on that matter, with which he agreed, but he said that the Sultan, before sending his Representatives to the Conference, wished to have some guarantees. To this I observed that, while ignoring the nature of the guarantees that His Majesty now required, it seemed to me that neither he nor the French Minister nor myself would be able to give any, and that this question would be essentially one for the Conference to deal with.

He then asked me whether I had any news as to Tangier having been definitely decided upon for the place of meeting of the Conference.

I said I had none, but thought that as Algeciras, which had been freely mentioned, presented many advantages and none of the disadvantages of Tangier, it would be more suitable. Count Tattenbach had no objection to offer to Algeciras beyond the fact that the only available hotel was completely occupied in the winter by English, who reserved their rooms months beforehand. This difficulty, I said, could probably be easily overcome.

Count Tattenbach thought that perhaps at the end of this week the programme might be in his hands and in that of the French Minister.

In the meantime, however, the French Minister has lost one telegram owing to the disappearance of a courier, and another has reached him undecypherable. If these telegrams deal with the Conference question it may mean a further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 34.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *Fez, August* 28, 1905.

IN the course of a visit Count Tattenbach yesterday paid to the French Minister the former mentioned for the first time the question of a German loan to Morocco, about which, he said, the French newspapers were making "a great fuss." Count Tattenbach told M. Saint-René Taillandier that since he had been here he had had four distinct offers from four separate financial groups of loans to the Sultan, and they could not be ignored.

M. Saint-René, feeling, as he told me, that this was not a matter which he could well discuss with the German Minister, received his admission with icy silence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 35.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Fez, August* 29, 1905.

IN a conversation I had yesterday afternoon with Cid Dris-el-Bookili, the Chief Secretary of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, he informed me that the Sultan had agreed to the release of Bu Mzian-el-Meliani, the Algerian, but that the Government was not prepared to admit his claim to Algerian nationality. This, he said, was a matter for future discussion, as it is not this individual only that is affected, there being three Kabilas of similarly naturalized Moorish subjects in the country, who have all up to the present recognized the Sultan's jurisdiction over them.

He also stated, I know not with what truth, that the French Minister claimed that all the Meliasa tribe are Algerian subjects, which claim the Makhzen contest.

Asked by me to give the reason of the arrest of this particular individual, he said that Bu Mzian is well known in his district as the leader of a gang of robbers, and has quite recently shot a man, besides committing many other excesses. He has fixed a tariff for stolen property, and, on payment of the sums fixed by him, property can be recovered by its owners.

Complaints were, El Bookili said, made to the French authorities about him, but nothing was done to put an end to his misdeeds, and he asked if it was possible to allow such a state of affairs to continue.

It was to be regretted, he said, that opinion in Europe was formed on the one-sided statements made by newspaper correspondents, the Moorish Government having no means of placing their views before the public.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 36.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 232.)
My Lord, *Fez, August* 29, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to report that, when the Algerian Bu Mzian-el-Meliani was delivered over to the French Legation, a note was at the same time handed in from Ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the French Minister.

In this note it was stated that the Moorish Government still awaited the exposition of the reasons for which the French Minister regarded Bu Mzian as a French citizen, but that, in view of the stir that had been occasioned by his arrest, the Sultan had ordered that he should be provisionally set at liberty.

The Makhzen proposed to submit this and analogous questions to the Conference when it met.

This is another proof that the Makhzen considers that the Conference will sit as a Tribunal, before which the French Government is to be cited for its misdeeds.

In conversing over the Bu Mzian-el-Meliani case with the French Minister, the latter told me that the tribe to which the man belongs came to Morocco since the French occupation, that they have always been regarded both by the French Legation and by the Makhzen as Algerians, inasmuch as any claim or complaint against any one of them was invariably made through the French Consular officer here, that many of them, Bu Mzian-el-Meliani included, actually hold French certificates, and, in this man's case, there had been a communication, bearing the date of the 18th June, from the Acting Governor of Fez to the French Consul, in which he was treated as an Algerian.

Regarding the charges brought against the man, they might or might not be true. That was a subsidiary matter which required investigation, but, considering that the country was in a condition of complete anarchy, he was probably only following the example of his neighbours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 37.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 233.)
My Lord, *Fez, August* 30, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 219 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to state that I have heard from a confidential source that Bu Amama is urging friends of his on the Algerian frontier, and Raisuli at Tangier, to capture a European, or in Raisuli's case, the Basha Abdelkrim-es-Shirgui, who is in command of a small military expedition near Tangier.

The object of this would be to procure the release by the Makhzen of Sid Taib, the son of Bu Amama, lately arrested at Oujdah, and now in prison here.

It seems, however, unlikely that Raisuli would embark upon such a venture, now that he is comfortably installed as Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 38.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 234.)
Fez, August 30, 1905.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 225 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that the son of Ma-al-ain left Fez on the 25th instant for Saguiet-al-Hamra viâ Mogador.

It is currently reported that the Sultan has agreed to supply Ma-al-Ain with 10,000 rifles and a quantity of ammunition, and that these will be delivered to his son and party on their reaching Mogador.

Before leaving Fez the Envoy was presented with horses, saddles, and a certain sum of money.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 39.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 235.)
Fez, September 1, 1905.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 232 of the 29th ultimo, and to my telegram of to-day's date, on the subject of the release of the Algerian Bu Mzian-el-Meliani by the Moorish Government, I have the honour to report to your Lordship the following information which I received to-day in a conversation with M. Saint-René Taillandier.

The French Minister handed in his note to the Makhzen, based on the instructions from his Government (as reported in Mr. Wyldbore Smith's telegram, Separate, of the 26th ultimo) on the evening of the 30th ultimo.

He took note in this document of the release of the Algerian, but pointed out that the other demands had not been complied with, he had therefore to inform the Makhzen that, in the event of the non-fulfilment of the demands, he intended leaving Fez with the whole of his staff during the day of the 5th September.

These demands were three in number—

1. An indemnity of 1,000 dollars.
2. 1,700 dollars for the seventeen days' detention of the Algerian after his release had been refused, at the rate of 100 dollars per diem.
3. The destitution of the Kaïd as a punishment for the ill-treatment by him of the Algerian. This destitution to be notified to the French Minister by note.

In addition to these, M. Saint-René demanded that an employé of the Makhzen should be sent to him to offer the apologies of the Moorish Government for the whole incident

Finally, his Excellency requested that, in the event of non-compliance with these demands, the Sultan should be invited to name a day and hour in order that he might take leave of His Majesty in a private audience, and likewise asked that measures might be taken to provide him with the necessary means of transport.

The note was handed in by the Algerian Interpreter of the French Legation to Ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who appears to have been quite taken aback by it. Ben Sliman took the matter very seriously, and observed that the Moorish Government could never allow the French Minister to depart in such a manner, as it would be most humiliating for them, and he hoped that it would all end well.

His Excellency, however, added that he would not communicate the note to His Majesty until after the hour of prayer at the Mosque this afternoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 40.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(Separate.)
Tangier, September 1, 1905.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires here received, yesterday, from the Maghzen a communication similar to that transmitted to Mr. Lowther, copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in his despatch No. 224 of the 22nd August.

The Russian Government, in accepting the Sultan's invitation to the Conference, did so without reservation of any kind. M. Sabline is, therefore, at a loss to understand why such a communication should have been addressed to him.

The Spanish Minister tells me that he has also received a similar note; but as the replies of His Majesty's Government and of the Spanish Government were couched in similar terms and under the same reservations, it is not surprising that the Moorish Government should have taken note thereof and replied thereto by an identic note.

I understand that no such communication has been received at any of the other Legations here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 41.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(Separate.)
Tangier, September 3, 1905.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday fighting occurred here within 3 miles of the town between the Anghera tribes and those under the jurisdiction of Reisouli.

Trouble between these two factions has been brewing for some weeks past, owing to the high-handed actions of Reisouli and the fact that he is now recognized by the Government as Governor of a large district which extends right up to the walls of the town.

Taking advantage of his position, Reisouli has innovated a system of taxation of all native shopkeepers, which he has exacted with merciless severity, and of this source of personal revenue the Anghera Kaïds have become exceedingly jealous, the result being that, a few days ago, deputies of these Kaïds came into Tangier and attempted to impose a similar tax; this, however, the shopkeepers objected to, and the matter was eventually settled, Reisouli agreeing to withdraw this tax on the condition that his rivals should not attempt such an imposition.

Quite recently, Reisouli discovered a plot to capture him, which he considered had been instigated by a member of one of the tribes nominaliy under his rule, but which was actually favourable to the Anghera faction. He promptly imprisoned this man, whereupon the Anghera tribe yesterday morning sacked one of his villages, carrying off all the cattle they could find.

The actual fighting was, as is usual on these occasions, of a very feeble description; the casualties throughout the occurrence, which only lasted a few hours, amounted, so far as can be ascertained at present, to one man killed and three wounded.

The situation has not improved, and it is not improbable that, unless mediation can be successfully employed, further disturbances may shortly occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 42.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a despatch from the Acting Vice-Consul at Dar-al-Baida, giving the account of the action of a yacht called the "Ville de Bordeaux," flying the Belgian flag, which arrived at that port on the 23rd ultimo.

It appears that this vessel made her appearance at Fedallah, a disused port about 16 miles north-west of Dar-al-Baida, and remained there until the 23rd, landing rifles and ammunition every night. She arrived that same day at Dar-al-Baida, where she remained for a few days.

On the 28th ultimo news reached Dar-al-Baida that this yacht was again at Fedallah, and that the neighbouring tribes were attacking the store which had been erected at this spot for some unknown purpose by the German Vice-Consul at Rabat, and in which the rifles landed from the "Ville de Bordeaux" were said to have been concealed.

The following day the Kaïd of Fedallah district arrived at Dar-al-Baida with two mule loads of rifles, which he reported had been seized from the yacht's boats, which had been sent ashore to land them.

These rifles were handed over to the Customs' officials at Dar-al-Baida, who laid a complaint against the German Vice-Consul at Rabat for being concerned in this contraband trade, whereupon, as soon as he heard of it, the German Chargé d'Affaires tells me he sent orders to Dar-al-Baida to his Consul to summon the accused to attend there, in order that a full inquiry be held as to his connection with this affair. The Belgian Vice-Consul at Dar-al-Baida also would appear not to be altogether free from suspicion in connection with this occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 43.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 5, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Baron Langwerth, the German Chargé d'Affaires, told me that he instructed his first dragoman to send a message yesterday to Raisuli's brother, who happened to be in Tangier, inviting him to come to the German Legation to discuss the local situation.

Baron Langwerth continued that Raisuli's brother came, and M. Maroum proposed to him that Raisuli should endeavour to arrive at a settlement with the Anghera tribe.

This, it appeared, was not possible, whereupon M. Maroum suggested that if the two factions were irreconcilable, and it was inevitable that they should fight it out, Raisuli should do his best to localize the scene of any disturbance which might occur, at some point, as far removed as possible from Tangier. To this suggestion, Baron Langwerth tells me, Raisuli's brother expressed his entire concurrence, and promised to report to his brother the desires of the German Chargé d'Affaires.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 44.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Wyldbore Smith.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1905.

THE Admiralty have telegraphed the following instructions to the Senior Naval Officer at Gibraltar:—

"As the unsettled state of affairs round Tangier may render the presence of a war-ship necessary, the 'Leander' should be held in readiness to proceed there until the Commander-in-chief of the Atlantic squadron can detail a ship for the duty. Latter officer has been communicated with."

No. 45.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1905.

WITH reference to the accompanying telegram from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier,* copy of which has already been communicated to your Department, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state that His Lordship will be glad, should the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty see no objection, if instructions may be sent to Gibraltar for a ship of war to be kept in readiness to proceed to Tangier in case of necessity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 46.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 12.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 12, 1905.

DISTURBANCES around Tangier.

The doyen of the Diplomatic Corps here has circulated a note among the Representatives, in which it is suggested that he should make representations on their behalf to the Sultan's Commissioner with reference to the want of security existing at Tangier. The German Chargé d'Affaires, in reply, advocates that each Legation should act for itself, although he acknowledges that a state of insecurity does exist. All the other Representatives have approved the doyen's suggestion.

The fighting among the tribes continues; the scene of the disturbance is, however, removed somewhat further from the town.

No. 47.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 237.)
My Lord, *Fez, September* 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to state that reports have been received here to the effect that Shereefian letters have been read in the mosques of Elksar-el-Kebir, Dar-al-Baida, and Marakesh announcing that the people of Algeria were assisting the Pretender.

It is a somewhat bold step on the part of the Makhzen making an official and public declaration of this nature and circulating this report, which they would probably find very difficult to prove, and the object of which can only be to excite animosity in Morocco against France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

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* See No. 32.

No. 48.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 238.)
My Lord, *Fez, September* 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that the incident of the arrest of the Algerian was closed to-day, the terms of the French ultimatum being complied with.

Yesterday the French Minister received a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs agreeing to the demands put forward by France, but containing a variety of reservations which M. Saint-René Taillandier was unable to accept, and the note was returned.

To-day a fresh note was presented couched in suitable language, which the French Minister was able to accept. The indemnity due to Bu Mzian-el-Meliani was likewise paid in.

With regard to the sum owing for certain claims the validity of which the Moorish Government had admitted, M. Saint-René told me that he had made a great mistake regarding the total amount of these, which was really only about 1,200*l.*, and this sum had been paid.

It is probable that M. Saint-René did not wish to be too severe with the Moorish Government on this point.

With regard to the apology demanded, the Moorish Government suggested that this should be offered by the Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. This, however, M. Saint-René would not accept, pointing out that the social standing of the injured person had nothing to do with the matter, but that the French Government was in question, and that, as the offence had been committed by the Moorish Government, the principal member of that Government should offer the necessary apologies.

The Grand Vizier consequently went to-day to the French Legation and verbally offered the excuses of his Government for the unlawful arrest of a French citizen, giving an assurance that no repetition of such an offence would occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 49.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 13.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 7, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, to your Lordship of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report that the disturbed state of affairs in this neighbourhood continues unabated.

Yesterday morning Reisouli sent a messenger to Sid Mohammed Torres informing him that some Beni Mesour tribesmen had carried off his mother with the intention, it would seem, of holding her as a hostage for the release of the five prisoners whom Reisouli had sent under a strong escort to Fez the preceding day.

There does not seem to be, so far as I can judge, any serious sign of anti-European feeling, the quarrel being purely an inter-tribal affair, nevertheless, the presence of so many armed men actually in Tangier, as well as in the immediate neighbourhood, constitutes a certain danger to Europeans, as is proved by the occurrence of such incidents as I reported in my despatches to your Lordship of the 4th instant. A similar affair occurred yesterday, when an official from the French telegraph office here, who had been sent to repair a break in the telegraph line some 2½ miles from Tangier, was attacked, beaten, and robbed of everything he had with him. This act is attributed, of course, to the inhabitants in whose immediate district it occurred, but it would seem to be by no means impossible that it was committed by members of the opposing faction in order to get the inhabitants of the district into bad odour with the Government.

I have been in communication with Sid Mohammed Torres on the subject of the precautions which it is advisable for the local authorities to take in order that they

may be prepared to insure the safety of the European population here, and he has assured me that they have taken steps to afford the proper protection should the necessity arise. I hear privately that instructions have been sent to the Commander of the Mahalla stationed some 25 miles from Tangier, and consisting of some 200 horsemen and 300 infantry, to move in closer to the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 50.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Wyldbore Smith.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1905.

DISTURBED condition of Tangier district.

My telegram of the 11th instant.

His Majesty's ship "Amethyst" is proceeding to Gibraltar from Funchal, and will be held in readiness to go to Tangier. She should not be summoned unless extreme necessity exists for her presence.

No. 51.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 14.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 14, 1905.

DISTURBANCES around Tangier. Your Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

It would appear from the latest reports that reach me that matters are quieting down in the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier, and it seems probable that a friendly understanding will be come to among the tribes concerned. It seems to me therefore improbable that the presence of a war-ship at short notice is likely to be required here.

No. 52.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 604. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1905.

I HAVE received a private letter from M. Cambon, dated Versailles, the 6th September, in which he informs me that the negotiations between the French and Spanish Governments for the purpose of securing the interests and rights of the two countries in the Empire of Morocco, in accordance with the spirit of the Franco-Spanish Arrangement of the 3rd October, 1904, have resulted in an Agreement which was confirmed on the 1st September, by an exchange of notes between M. Montero Rios and the French Ambassador at Madrid.

M. Cambon gives me confidentially, by desire of M. Rouvier, the following analysis of the provisions of the Agreement:—

It is arranged that the force to be organized for policing the ports shall be composed of native troops; the officers and non-commissioned officers to be French at the ports of Rabat and Casablanca, and Spanish at the ports of Tetuan and Laraiche. At Tangier, the policing to be intrusted to a Franco-Spanish corps, commanded by a Frenchman.

The control and suppression of the smuggling of arms to be undertaken by France in the sphere of the Algerian frontier, and by Spain in the sphere of the Spanish African possessions.

The prevention of smuggling by sea to be intrusted to a division of war-ships of the two countries, commanded by a French and Spanish officer during alternate years.

With regard to economic, financial, and other interests, it is agreed that various enterprises of a commercial and industrial character may be carried out by Franco-Spanish groups, and that the two Governments shall encourage the creation of such groups on the basis of equal rights for shareholders in proportion to the capital

invested; that Frenchmen and Spaniards as well as their establishments and schools shall enjoy the same rights and privileges; and that the two Governments shall employ all peaceful means in their power to prevent the Moorish authorities from modifying the juridical status of individuals, or the conditions to which the goods of the two countries are subjected. It is also agreed that Spanish silver money shall continue to be freely introduced into Morocco, and that its character as legal tender shall be preserved.

The two Governments are in accord as to the necessity of instituting in Morocco a banking establishment, whether under the title of State Bank or under any other name, the presidency of the Board of Administration to be assigned to France. The Spanish share in this undertaking is to be superior to that of any other single Power except France. The number of Spanish members of the Board to be proportionate to the amount of Spanish capital.

France and Spain declare their firm intention to proceed in complete Agreement during the deliberations of the proposed Conference, and undertake to afford each other the most complete peaceful support on all questions of a general nature concerning Morocco.

M. Cambon observes that this Agreement is a fresh step towards the solution of the Moorish question, and expresses the hope that it will not be long before the measures provided for in the new Agreement are realized.

I have requested M. Cambon to express to M. Rouvier my best thanks for his thought of imparting the above information to His Majesty's Government, adding that we had, from the first, as his Excellency knew, been extremely anxious that there should be a complete and friendly understanding between France and Spain in regard to the part to be taken by the two Powers respectively in dealing with the Moorish problem. Such an understanding seems to have been happily reached, and its existence would render it possible for the two countries, each of which had a special interest in Morocco, to work together in complete harmony.

I have informed M. Cambon that the latest reports which had reached us suggested the idea that Germany would in all probability, though with reluctance and after resisting as far as she could, eventually abandon her demand that the Conference should meet at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 53.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 18,)

(No. 239.)

My Lord, *Fez, September* 5, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 227 of the 25th ultimo, I have the satisfaction of reporting that the five men imprisoned on suspicion of being connected with the Madden murder have now, to the satisfaction of Mr. Consul Maclean and of the Governor of Mazagan, been proved to have been those implicated in the murder.

I inclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean, in which he states that the five men have confessed, though it seems that one of them has, up till now, refused to do so, though evidently equally guilty.

The confessions of these men before Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney are also inclosed, as well as translations of the statements of the men written down by the notaries in the presence of the Governor and Mr. Maclean.

It is unfortunate that the instigator of the murder should still be at large, and that there should be so little prospect of his being secured owing to the condition of anarchy of the district where he has taken refuge.

I shall not fail to transmit to your Lordship Mr. Consul Maclean's final report when I receive it. In the meantime, I would venture to request that no decision be taken for the present regarding the demands to be presented to the Moorish Government in the matter of the punishment of the criminals or the question of indemnity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Consul Maclean to Mr. Lowther.

Sir, *Mazagan, August* 30, 1905.

FIVE men have separately confessed that they assisted each other to murder Mr. Madden. They were hired assassins. Their names are:—

1. Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie.
2. M'hamed Wold Mesod-bel-Larbie.
3. Hamed-ben-Bwee.
4. Mesod-ben-Embark-bel-Maaschie.
5. Bonshaib-ben-Mohamed-ben-Naami.

Boafee (No. 1) confessed that he was the ringleader and hired the others. He had been planning the crime for a month. He was engaged by Abdrahman-ben-Yessif in order to obtain some documents which he was to hand over to Bonshaib-ben-Naami (No. 5) to take to Abdrahman.

I am transmitting herewith the statements of these men as written down by the Adool (notaries) in the presence of the Governor and myself.

The confession was brought about by the public identification of M'hamed Wold Mesod (No. 2).

Mrs. Madden was able to point him out from among the others as the man who shot at her (*vide* notarial document inclosed).

M'hamed had no intention of being the only sufferer, and quickly recognized that the game was up.

I was not present when the confessions were made, but I heard each man separately when the Adool took down their statements.

Hamed-ben-Bwee (No. 3) declined any confession in my presence, but all the others were brought in, and they declared he was one of them. I have no doubt of his guilt.

I will report more fully to your Excellency on another occasion, and I will in the meantime weigh the evidence.

I inclose, for your information, a rough translation of a letter that the Governor informs me he has addressed to Cid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman reporting the clearing up of the case.

The statements made in the letter are not quite accurate.

Two of the murderers and the man who hired them usually reside in Mazagan. One of the others is a lighterman, and the other two work in Mazagan although they live outside.

The Kaïd Erha was of great assistance in the end, and did his best to shield me from further deception on the part of the Governor.

I inclose despatches for the Court from the Governor and from the Kaïd Erha. I undertook to send them with mine because our courier service is better organized.

I pray your Excellency to defer arriving at any conclusions or making demands on the Moorish Government in connection with this case until I have summed up the evidence and reported again by post.

I have not a shadow of doubt that the prisoners I have named are guilty, and one can have no compassion for the perpetrators of such a cowardly crime, but there are other circumstances, I think, to be also taken into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Translation of a Letter that the Governor reports to have addressed to Cid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman.

(After compliments.)

INFORM His Shereefian Majesty that the murderers of Mr. Madden have been captured after long and strenuous efforts. They are the five mentioned in the

margin,* all of them in the jurisdiction of El Kaïd-el-Kilally except one named Bonshaib Naami-el-Furgee, who is in the jurisdiction of Kaïd-el-Mekie-bel-Aoam, and they confessed to committing the crime, saying "God had willed them to do this," by request of Abdrahman-ben-Yussif-el-Furjee, who hired them at 20 dollars each to kill the said Consul and to bring him some documents he wished to get possession of, as mentioned in the document we send you of the confession, and the wife of Mr. Madden recognized M'hamed-bel-Mesod out of these five, who, she states, fired at her, and the only one left now is Abdrahman Wold Yussif, the instigator of the crime to kill the Consul, and he is now in the province of and under the jurisdiction of above-mentioned Governor Bel Mekie, and we have used every effort to secure him, but unsuccessfully, because the Kabela is in revolution; and I wrote to Kaïd-el-Mekie, through Cid Moulai Abbas, three times, but uselessly.

Inclosure 3 in No. 53.

Notes of Evidence taken by Vice-Consul Spinney when closeted with each of the Prisoners named separately, no one else being present.

Confession made by Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie Abady.

FOR about a month previous to the murder Bonshaib Wold Naami spoke to me repeatedly on behalf of Abdrahman Wold-ben-Yusif, who wished me to collect some men and go and kill Mr. Madden. When I was willing to do this I saw Abdrahman myself, and he stated that he required some documents in Mr. Madden's possession and would send Bonshaib-ben-Naami with me and the men I should engage. He offered to pay me and the men I should require 20 dollars each. I saw Abdrahman just before we started to go and commit the deed, and he walked part of the way with Ben Naami and myself to the meeting-place we had arranged with M'hamed Wold Mesod, Mesod-ben-Embark-bel-Maashie, and Hamed-ben-Bwee, who had been hired through me to accompany us. On the way I gave Ben Naami 7 dollars, and 7 dollars to the other three men, after the deed had been committed and when we got back to our province. We entered by a window from which we abstracted the framework by a piece of iron. We all wore "jelabias" except Ben Naami, who wore a "khaneef." Mesod Wold Embark-bel-Maashie remained outside and handed his gun, which was a fowling-piece, to Hamed-ben-Bwee. Both Wold Naami and I had daggers and "zerwattas," and M'hamed Wold Mesod a pistol and a dagger.

We found nobody in the room we passed through, but in the third room we found Mr. Madden in bed, although not asleep. There was a lighted candle near him. When he saw us he appeared to recognize Ben Naami, and Ben Naami told us to kill him, as he had been recognized, and thereupon Ben Bwee shot Mr. Madden, and we all attacked him with daggers. Then Mrs. Madden appeared in the doorway and caught hold of M'hamed Wold Mesod's arm and begged us not to kill, but take anything we wanted. M'hamed Wold Mesod fired at her, and she fled. We dragged the body off the bed and left it covered with a white sheet and red blanket (or quilt?). We were afraid that Mrs. Madden had escaped, and seized some things and left. I asked Naami if he got the documents, and he said "Yes, and a silver watch." I also know that M'hamed Wold Mesod took a gold watch and two rings. I found I had only a box of cigarettes, which I threw away. We dispersed as soon as we got a little distance from the house.

Confession made by M'hamed Wold Mesod-bel-Larbie.

My uncle Boafee told me, about a month before the crime, that he had been hired by Wolad-ben-Yusif to go with some friends to kill Mr. Madden in order to recover some documents. He proposed my accompanying him, and I accepted, for the sum of 20 dollars, to do so. He told me he was going to get Ben Bwee and Mesod-ben-Embark-bel-Maashie, and that the Wolad Yusif would send Ben Naami with us.

* Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larby, M'hamed Wold Mesod-bel-Larby, Hamed-ben-Bwee, Mesod Wold Embark-bel-Maaschie, Bonshaib-ben-Mohamed-ben-Naami.

On the night in question we, that is, Hamed-ben-Bwee, Mesod-bel-Embark-bel-Maashie, and myself, went together to a garden near Mr. Madden's house, and were joined later by Boafee and Ben Naami. We got in by a window which we forced with an iron peg, and left Ben Naami outside. We attacked Mr. Madden, Bel Maashie with a gun and dagger, Boafee with a dagger. Ben Bwee had a pistol. Mrs. Madden appeared and begged for their lives, and I was nearest to her and acknowledge to be the man she recognized, but it was Ben Bwee from behind me who fired at her. We all wore "jelabias" except Wold Naami, who wore a "khaneef." I did not receive 20 dollars, but only 7 dollars.

Confession made by Bonshaib-ben-Mohamed-ben-Abdallah-el-Naami.

I was sent by Abdrahman Wold Yussif to go with these men for the purpose of killing Mr. Madden and obtaining some documents. I remained outside, but Boafee brought me the papers and a silver watch, which I delivered later to Abdrahman. He burnt the papers. I received 7 dollars from Boafee on the way to the house.

Inclosure 4 in No. 53.

Statements made before Notaries.

(Translation.)

Praise to God!

BY instruction of the competent authority*—God honour him!—his authorization having been applied for the two undersigned witnesses, proceeded to the Governor of Mazagan, the Kaïd, the Fakih Cid Hassan, son of the late Kaïd Cid-el-Hadj, Mehemmed-ben-Yahia Jadeedi, with whom they found Mr. Maclean, British Consul, and his Khalifa, Mr. Tom (Spinney), and Mr. Jaime de Maria, the Englishman, and the four men mentioned in the margin* were brought in. Then appeared Lucy, the wife of Mr. Madden, the Englishman, her sister Carrie. The four mentioned in the margin† were shown to the said Lucy in case she might recognize which among them was present at the murder of her husband. She pointed to the said M'hamed-ben-Mesod as having fired at her at the time of the murder.

Attested by two "adools" (notaries).

Dated, night of the 26th Jumad II, 1323 (the 28th August, 1905).

Certified by Kadi.

Praise to God!

In the presence of Kaïd Cid-el-Hassan, son of the late Kaïd Cid Hadj Mohammed-ben-Yahia of Mazagan, and Colonel Cid-el-Arbi-es-Susi, Mr. Maclean, British Consul at Dar-al-Baida, and Mr. Tom Spinney, British Consul at Mazagan, and before the two undersigned witnesses, appeared Mehemmed-ben-Mesod-ben-el-Arbi-el-Abadi-es-Sahli, complexion fairish, height slightly over medium, beard of recent growth, teeth regular, nose straight, eyebrows black and thick, two moles on right cheek, who stated that Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie, of the same tribe, mentioned hereafter, said to him that the sons of Yussif-el-Furjee had hired him to kill the Christian Madden at 20 dollars each for those who would assist him in murdering him. This was a month before the murder. The said M'hamed agreed to this after being told by the said Boafee that Mesod-ben-Embark-bel-Maaschi-el-Abadi and Hamed-ben-Bwee, of the same tribe, and Bonshaib-ben-Mohammed-el-Naami would join them in this.

On the night of the murder the said Hamed and Mesod went to a spot near a "sanieh," near to the house of Mr. Madden, where they were joined by the said Boafee, Bonshaib, and Mehemmed; they assembled there and proceeded to the house of the said Christian Madden, and the said Boafee opened one of the windows with a

* *i.e.*, the Kadi.

† M'hamed-ben-Mesod-el-Abadi, his uncle Boafee, Mesod-ben-Embark (of the same tribe), and Hamed-ben-Bwee (of the same tribe).

piece of iron, and they all went in to him (Madden) with the exception of the aforesaid Wold-el-Naami, who remained outside at the said window; this was shortly after the "asha" prayers. When they entered, the said Mesod fired a charge of lead from a double-barrelled gun at the said Christian, and they then proceeded to attack him with knives and knobsticks, and killed him. The Christian woman, his wife, came in, and clung to the said M'hamed, and begged them not to kill the Christian, and that she would give them the money, but Hamed-ben-Bwee, aforesaid, fired at her with a pistol, whereupon she fled and hid herself from them.

After the murder they took from the Christian's house two rings, two watches—one white, the other yellow—and some papers, all of which were held by the said Boafee, and when they left Boafee delivered over the white watch and the papers to Wold-el-Naami aforesaid, and the remainder of the things he gave over to the said Mesod, telling him to take charge of them until he should deliver them to the said Wold-el-Naami. They then proceeded to near Sidi Boafee, where Wold-el-Naami and Boafee returned to near the town of Mazagan, where they separated. Subsequently the said Boafee paid 7 dollars to the said Mohamed, and 7 dollars to Wold-el-Naami, telling them that it was from the said Oolad Yussif as pay for killing the said Christian.

Those who heard this statement made by the said M'hamed in the presence of the said persons, M'hamed being a prisoner and in irons, noted it down on the 27th Jumad II, 1323.

Praise to God!

Appeared before the two undersigned witnesses, in the presence of the persons mentioned in the above document, Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie-el-Abadi, above mentioned—height, medium; complexion, slightly dark; teeth, regular; nose, straight and fine; bald over temples—who stated that he, with the four men above mentioned, killed the said Christian Madden, and that Abdrahman-bel-Hadj Mohammed-ben-Yussif-el-Furjee of Mazagan had hired them to murder him at 20 dollars each, that he paid him 30 dollars of the sum, which he divided amongst the said four men, giving them 7 dollars each, there only remaining 7 dollars in his hands. The said Bonshaib-ben-Naami when he received the money from his maternal uncle the said Abdrahman, who used to send to him for some days before, until on the night of the murder of the said Christian he met him. On that night the said Abdrahman had his wedding. He went with him to conduct him and recommended him to kill the said Christian.

The said Abdrahman went back, and the said Boafee went with the said four men to the house of the said Christian, and they went in to him with the exception of the said Mesod, who remained awaiting them outside. He (Mesod) gave a double-barrelled gun to Hamed-ben-Bwee aforesaid. They all wore "jelabs" except Wold-el-Naami, who wore a "khaidus." Boafee had in his hands a dagger and a knobstick, Wold-el-Naami also had a dagger and a knobstick, and Mohamed-ben-Mesod had a knife and a pistol. The said Christian recognized the said Wold-el-Naami, and the said Wold-el-Naami said to them, "Kill him, he has recognized me." The said Hamed shot at him with a charge of powder and lead, and they attacked and killed him. The Christian woman, his wife, caught M'hamed-ben-Mesod by the hand and clung to him and said, "I will give you the money, but leave him alone," whereupon he fired a pistol shot at her, and she fled and hid herself from them. They took from the house of the said Christian two watches, two rings, some papers and coats. The said Wold-el-Naami took a white watch and the papers. The other watch and the two rings were taken by M'hamed-ben-Mesod aforesaid. Every one then left. Subsequently the said Boafee met the said Abdrahman and told him he had caused the proof, *i.e.*, the said papers, to reach him, and he replied that they had reached him.

(Attestation similar to that of first document.)

Praise to God!

Appeared before the two undersigned witnesses, in the presence of the persons mentioned in the above first document, Bonshaib-ben-Mohammed-ben-Abdallah-el-Naami—height, medium; complexion, verging on fair; teeth, regular; beard, none;

eyebrows, black and thick—and stated that his maternal uncle, Abdrahman-bel-Hadj Mohammed-ben-Yussif, instructed him to go with the said Boafee on the night of the murder of the said Christian Madden, and told him to bring to him whatever the said Boafee might give him. The said Bonshaib sought for the said Boafee, and found him by the house of the Maalem Abdelkebir. Boafee handed him 7 dollars, and went with him to a "seniah" near the house of the said Christian. They found three men there, viz., Hamed-ben-Bwee, Mesod-ben-Embark-el-Maaschie, and M'hamed-ben-Mesod, all mentioned above. They all went together to the house of the said Christian, of which they pulled down one of the windows and went into the said Christian except the said Bonshaib, who remained awaiting them by the said window. This was after the "asha" prayers. He heard a shot fired in the house. When they came out Boafee handed him a white watch and a serviette containing documents. They then all went together as far as Gour Ishak Hammo, where they parted—Boafee aforesaid went with him to near Sidi Boafee, when the said Bonshaib returned to the garden of Oolad-el-Hadj Mohammed aforesaid, where he slept till the morning. His maternal uncle, Abdrahman aforesaid, came to him, and he (Bonshaib) handed to him the watch and documents aforesaid. Abdrahman burned the said documents.

(Attestation identical with previous documents).

Praise to God!

Appeared before the two undersigned witnesses in the presence of &c., Mesod-ben-Embark-bel-Maaschie-el-Abadi—complexion dark; height, medium; beard, full; eyebrows, thick and black; front teeth separated—who stated that Hamed-ben-Bwee aforesaid handed him 7 dollars given to him by Boafee aforesaid to kill the said Christian. He went with him and went into his (Madden's) house, and Hamed-ben-Bwee aforesaid fired at him (Madden) with a double-barrelled gun and killed him. When the shot was fired the Christian woman, his wife, fled. The aforesaid Bwee had a knife. M'hamed Wold Mesod took a watch and two rings from the house of the said Christian.

(Attestation identical with previous documents).

Praise to God!

Appeared, &c. (see former documents) Hamed-ben-Bwee-el-Abadi above-mentioned—complexion, fair; height, medium; beard, full; bald over temples; teeth, regular—who stated that he was not present at the murder of the above-mentioned Christian, and that he had no knowledge as to who had killed him.

(Attestation identical with previous documents).

Certification of Kadi.

No. 54.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 16. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 5, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that some officials of the Bank of Spain recently visited Tangier with the object of studying on the spot the advisability of establishing here a branch of that bank.

So far as I have been able to gather, the results of the investigations of these officials showed that, from a purely commercial point of view, the trade relations of this district with Spain, both as regards imports and exports, do not warrant the outlay necessary for the establishment and service of a branch of the Bank of Spain at Tangier.

From a financial and political point of view, however, I am told that the opinion of the Spanish colony here, and of the African Committee in Spain, is strongly in favour of such an establishment, since they hope thereby to considerably increase the commercial relations between the two countries.

Up till lately Morocco has been considered by the Spanish Government, which have the monopoly of minting silver bullion, as a valuable "dumping ground" for their superfluous silver, which is minted by the Government at a profit of 60 per cent. The recent importation, however, of considerable quantities of Moorish coin minted in Great Britain, France, and Germany for the account of the Moorish Government has enormously decreased the demand for Spanish silver, which is steadily being sent back to Spain, never to return here.

Before the introduction of Moorish coin Spanish currency was brought into this country in large quantities for local circulation; now, however, owing to the large quantities of the new Moorish coin having been put into circulation here, this Spanish money is no longer required, and the most part of it is exported into Spain to be converted into bills on Paris and London to pay for the foreign imports into this country.

The local bankers of Morocco buy and sell their paper on London and Paris at the Madrid Bourse, the result being that considerable quantities of Spanish currency are constantly flowing into Spain, the Moorish currency having taken its place.

In comparison with the Spanish coin there is, at present, an "agio of 35 per cent. on the Moorish coin, which, added to the difference of 33 per cent. between gold and Spanish silver, results in an actual loss of 80 per cent. on Moorish coin in comparison with gold. One of the chief causes of this loss is, so far as exports are concerned, the failure of the crops this year, and, as regards imports, the large quantities of food-stuffs coming into the country consequent on the failure of the crops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 55.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 18.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 10, 1905.

WITH reference to my Separate despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the fighting between the Fahs and Anghera tribes is still in progress.

During the last three days the partisans of these two tribes have been burning each other's villages, and during the course of these operations they have approached to within 2 miles of the town, which fact, coupled with the arrival in Tangier of large numbers of the inhabitants of the burnt villages, has considerably alarmed the local European population and caused a great stagnation in the trade of the town.

Mr. Bristow went yesterday, at my request, to ask Sid Mohammed Torres whether, owing to the large number of refugees from the sacked villages who have, it is said, congregated on the mountain just outside Tangier, he had taken precautions to place extra guards at the residences at present occupied by Europeans in this locality, of which there are a considerable number. Sid Torres replied that he had taken full precautions to afford protection to Europeans, and that there was no danger to be apprehended.

So far as I am aware, there seems to be at present no sign of any anti-European element in these disturbances, which would appear to be purely inter-tribal, but there is a certain amount of danger to be apprehended from the presence of so many refugees in the town, and as there is no police, and as every native one sees in the town is carrying a rifle of some description, should two opposing factions happen to meet in the town, an incident attended with serious results might very easily ensue, in which European passers-by might be the sufferers if fire-arms were resorted to.

I have discussed such possibilities with the French Chargé d'Affaires, and we came to the conclusion that it would be highly advisable that the doyen of the Diplomatic Corps should be asked to make official representations on this subject to Sid Torres.

We further decided that, lest it might be said by any member of the Diplomatic Corps that we were endeavouring to exaggerate the want of security at Tangier in order that it should be used as an argument, were any further argument wanting, against the proposition to hold the International Moroccan Conference at Tangier, it would be better that such suggestion be made to the doyen by the Representative of a less interested Power.

We therefore called independently on the Portuguese Minister, who is next in seniority to the doyen, and laid the proposal before him, to which he at once agreed, and yesterday evening a Circular was sent round by the doyen asking for the authority of each Representative to make representations to Sid Torres, in the name of the Diplomatic Body, on the subject of precautionary measures which it might be necessary to take to insure the safety of Europeans at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 56.

Mr. Cartwright to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, September* 15, 1905.

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 72 of the 9th instant, authorizing me to inform Señor Montero Rios, the President of the Council, that His Majesty's Government would continue to support the proposal put forward by the French Government that the Morocco Conference should be held in some city in Spain, I communicated this information by private letter to Señor Montero Rios, as that gentleman was for the moment absent from San Sebastian, having returned to Madrid to be present there during the period of the general elections.

I have the honour now to inclose copy of a private letter I have received in reply from the President of the Council, in which his Excellency expresses his warm thanks to your Lordship for the friendly attitude shown by His Majesty's Government towards Spain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FAIRFAX L. CARTWRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Señor Montero Rios to Mr. Cartwright.

Monsieur, *Madrid, le* 14 *Septembre*, 1905.

J'AI reçu, hier soir, votre bien aimable lettre, en me faisant part du télégramme du Marquis de Lansdowne, vous autorisant à me communiquer l'assurance que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique appuyera autant que possible la demande du Président du Conseil de Ministres de la République Française au Gouvernement Allemand afin que le lieu de la Conférence soit en Espagne.

Je vous prie, Monsieur, de transmettre au Marquis de Lansdowne les remerciements biens sincères du Gouvernement Espagnol à celui du Royaume-Uni pour ses sentiments d'amitié pour l'Espagne, auxquels ce Gouvernement est très sensible, en correspondant de sa part avec les mêmes sentiments de cordiale et bien dévouée amitié pour le Royaume-Uni, son Roi, et son Gouvernement.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) E. MONTERO RIOS.

No. 57.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 19.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 12, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that for the last three days there seems to have been a lull in the disturbances in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, and it is reported that the tribes in this district are considering what shall be their next move.

Reisouli sent an expedition yesterday morning against the Wad Ras tribe which joined in attacking him last week. He was supported by a detachment of cavalry

from the M'halla, part of which is now encamped near his stronghold, and is said to be under his orders. It seems that he himself is so suspicious of treachery that he seldom leaves his house.

I am told that this expedition returned without having been able to deliver an attack owing to the splendid positions occupied by the Wad Ras tribe in a very mountainous district. It is to be presumed that a further attempt will be made by Reisouli to achieve his object as soon as he shall have collected together a larger force.

The rest of the M'halla has come nearer to Tangier, and is now encamped at a spot some 17 miles distant from the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 58.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, September* 15, 1905.

MURDER of Mr. Madden at Mazagan.

My telegram No. 93 of the 4th instant, and despatch No. 239 of the 5th instant.

I have received a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean in which he suggests making the following demands of the Moorish Government:—

1. Two of the murderers to be publicly executed.

2. The imprisonment, *sine die*, of two of the murderers; these men to be imprisoned at some place other than Mazagan.

3. Two years' imprisonment for one of the murderers.

4. Arrangements to be made that the execution shall take place on the day preceding a market day.

I consider that it would be advisable that these demands should be presented, but, lest a dangerous movement might be caused by day suggested, I would recommend that no special day be indicated for execution.

Have I your Lordship's sanction to present these demands to the Moorish Government?

Mr. Maclean, although he does not anticipate any difficulty on account of a hostile attitude on the part of the Moors, suggests that a man-of-war might be sent to Mazagan on the day after the execution in order to acknowledge that satisfaction had been given on account of the murder.

Would your Lordship also wish me to demand an indemnity, or shall I endeavour to make the Moorish Government to offer spontaneously a gratuity of 1,000*l.* or 2,000*l.*?

I am forwarding by to-day's post Consul Maclean's full report.

It would seem desirable that there should be no further delay in presenting these demands to the Moorish Government.

No. 59.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 25.)

(No. 240.)
My Lord, *Fez, September* 8, 1905.

THE language held to me yesterday by Count Tattenbach, regarding the preparation of the programme for the Conference and the prospects for its meeting, were so at variance with the language his Excellency has latterly held to me, more especially as recorded in my despatches Nos. 223 and 229 of the 22nd and 28th ultimo, that it is perhaps worthy of being reported.

Count Tattenbach's views yesterday were that the programme put forward by the French Government was so vague that very searching amendments were necessary, and that several alterations must be introduced by the French, British, and Spanish Governments before it could even be submitted to the Moorish Government. He said that if the programme had been laid before the Sultan in its original skeleton form endless objections would have been forthcoming, and a series of questions propounded

which neither his French colleague nor he would have been in a position to answer. Even now, if the programme obtained the approval of the French Government and his own, he was convinced that the Moorish Government would throw many obstacles in the way of its acceptance, and he did not consequently anticipate any early meeting of the Conference, which, indeed, now looked as if it perhaps might not take place till the spring of next year.

This language corresponds more nearly with the language held by Count Tattenbach in the early days of August, and does not augur well for the advice his Excellency is likely to offer the Sultan. The great enthusiasm which his Excellency during the first part of our stay here evinced in favour of the Conference seems to be somewhat rapidly disappearing. It is also worthy of note that, from what I hear, this want of enthusiasm appears to be now to a great extent shared by the Sultan, who it seems has been deeply impressed by the conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 60.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 20.)

(No. 241.)
My Lord, *Fez, September* 10, 1905.

SPEAKING to-day with my French colleague on the lamentable condition of insecurity at present existing at Tangier, and the possible danger to Europeans resident there, I asked his Excellency how it was that the troops trained under Captain Fournier, the French officer, could not be utilized.

His Excellency replied that when Captain Fournier was first detached from the Military Mission here a written Agreement was made with the Makhzen that he was to drill and instruct the troops at Tangier, and he had met with a certain amount of success in that direction. Those troops were, however, removed to be sent to the relief of Oujda, and new recruits under Kaïd Rha were sent from here. This Kaïd, when called upon to bring out his men, absolutely refused, and although Captain Fournier appealed to the Governor, that official merely repeated the statement that the Kaïd Rha declined to bring out his troops. This attitude was obviously sanctioned by his superiors here.

I understand that the Makhzen has now been somewhat impressed by the state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Tangier, and state that they are about to send "reliable assistance" from here. Where this is to be found I am at a loss to say.

The impression produced upon the Makhzen is probably due not so much to the fear of possible danger to the population at the hands of the tribes as to the likelihood of the landing of forces from the French men-of-war in the harbour.

Count Tattenbach, with whom I conversed to-day on the subject of the insecurity of the neighbourhood of Tangier, was very loath to admit that it was more accentuated than on several previous occasions in his experience, no doubt bearing in mind that he was still a champion of Tangier as the most advantageous place for the Conference to meet, and he went so far as to insinuate that recent attacks, which had been made on the beach of Tangier on Frenchmen and on the correspondent of the "Times," Mr. Harris, could be explained by the too vivid imagination of those who stated that these assaults had actually occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 61.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 21.)

(Separate. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been confidentially informed that a German Company, represented here by a M. Pinhas Toledano, a German-protected subject, has arranged with the Moorish Government, through Count Tattenbach, for the inauguration of a line of steamers to ply three times a-week between Tangier and the various ports on the coast, and carry mails and passengers.

I understand that the steam-ship Company is to receive a subsidy from the German Government of 200,000 marks, and will, I am told, maintain these steamers on behalf of the Moorish Government and at their disposal, it being agreed that at the end of five years the Maghzen are to have the option of taking possession of this line altogether upon reimbursement of the outlay already expended by the Company.

I believe that what gave rise to the idea of establishing such a service to be at the disposal of the Moorish Government was the difficulty experienced by them some two and a-half months ago in finding suitable vessels to transport the necessary reinforcements to Saida for Ujdah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 62.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 21.)

(Separate. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September 21, 1905.*

KAID SIR H. MACLEAN tells me in strict confidence that he hears from Mr. Abensur, who represents the group of bankers connected with the German Loan, that in all probability when he reaches Fez he will be asked by the Sultan to raise a small loan. Sir H. Maclean added that he is prepared to lend His Majesty any sum provided it does not exceed 100,000*l.*

No. 63.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Wyldbore Smith.

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September 24, 1905.*

YOU should strongly discourage Sir H. Maclean from carrying out the loan proposal reported in your telegram of the 21st instant. It is undesirable in the Sultan's interests, and might cause very inconvenient complications.

You should report the matter to Mr. Lowther, and acquaint him with my view.

No. 64.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 242.)
My Lord, *Fez, September 14, 1905.*

WITH reference to Mr. Wyldbore Smith's despatch to your Lordship of the 28th July, regarding the survey and valuation of all Government buildings and lands in and around Tangier, I have the honour to report that at Dar-al-Baida, Rabat, Mazagan, Laraiche, and Tetuan, similar action in this respect has been taken or is contemplated.

If the Government offers these properties for sale some serious questions may arise. A system has gradually grown up in this country of leasing buildings and sites from the Government at a nominal rent, the lessee then putting up a building and sub-letting or "selling the key," as it is called here, to a third party at a very high rate. This has been sanctioned by long usage, but if the Government now insist upon being placed in possession of their property, the possessor of the key or the actual tenant will be compelled to try and recover the value paid for the key from the vendor, which, in the case of foreigners, will be a serious matter, and suggests endless difficulties. It has been suggested that this question should be brought before the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 61*.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 345.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 19, 1905.*

THE French press, which has on the whole shown much patience with regard to the negotiations between France and Germany relative to the Morocco Conference, has during the past three days assumed a discontented, and in some cases almost a defiant, attitude.

The "Petit Marseillais" published on Saturday a letter from its Berlin correspondent, which was reproduced on Sunday by "La Patrie," purporting to give the views of the German Emperor's *entourage* on the situation. France, so the writer asserted, was held in those quarters to be incapable of enforcing her will by arms, and Germany would render her powerless in Morocco, notwithstanding the support of Great Britain and Spain. Great Britain was known to recommend war, and to be dissatisfied at the "pusillanimity" of the French; the disorganized state of France favoured German aspirations.

The German Emperor, by his Moroccan policy, had accomplished a master stroke which had shown France that in spite of alliances and *ententes* she had remained under the German yoke.

The conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan—freeing as it did the hands of the former country—had alone prevented Prince Radolin from carrying out his instructions to bring on war. It became necessary to assume a conciliatory appearance, while still desiring and hoping for complications.

The writer expatiated at the end of his article on the German Emperor's duplicity.

Your Lordship may have noticed in Monday's "Times" extensive quotations from an article in the "Temps" of Sunday. The writer of this article asserted that the patience of public opinion had been severely strained by the fruitless prolongation of the present negotiations. He recapitulated the various phases of the latter, and laid the blame for delays on the Germans, who had been lavish of fine phrases, but had done nothing.

Although France did not wish to see a colonial problem transformed into a European complication, she would not permit that colonial problem to become a source of humiliation to her. French opinion realized that the maintenance of national dignity was necessary for the security of the nation, and it had recovered by the force of events a unity and a cohesion of which it was unjustly believed to be incapable. (A member of the German Embassy commenting on this article remarked to Mr. Baird that, although by no means friendly, it contained much that one could not be surprised at.)

The "Gaulois" published an article also on Sunday, headed "La Conférence n'aboutira pas." Its writer pointed out the discrepancies between the promises and performances of Germany, whose object in Morocco he considered to be the same as at Constantinople—viz., the acquisition of German predominance. He prophesied that, even if the Conference meets, Germany will take care that that unanimity shall be wanting without which nothing can be accomplished, and he held that this solution would be the most favourable to French interests.

Monday's "Figaro" alluded to the spreading conviction that German diplomacy will never recognize France's legitimate share in Morocco or elsewhere. Some dismal reflections were made on the extent of the French concessions to Germany.

The same paper quotes this morning a remark attributed by the Paris correspondent of the "Berliner Tageblatt" to a French politician: "On a bêtement perdu dix années," and reproduces part of the article in the "Tageblatt" on the subject. The ten years were lost, according to the "Tageblatt," not by the claims advanced, but by the methods adopted after the fall of M. Delcassé. The "Figaro," commenting on this article, notes the German writer's regret that nothing was done to allay mistrust in France, and points out that, on the contrary, no effort was spared to foster that feeling.

The view is expressed in a short article in the "Écho de Paris" this morning, that the temporary interruption of the negotiations between M. Révoil and M. de Rosen need not necessarily be taken to indicate that their rupture is imminent.

Further delay, however, cannot be tolerated.

Germany, it is asserted, now knows the nature of the French demands and the limits of the concessions which she is prepared to make. Further discussion is useless; the question must now be settled one way or the other.

The "Matin" this morning briefly reviews the different phases through which the negotiations have passed, pointing out the steady growth of the German demands which have risen from mere acceptance of a Conference to a request for a post on the Atlantic coast of Morocco. France, according to this paper, could not tolerate such a breach of the policy of the open door, nor could she dispose of the possession of an Empire whose destinies are to be settled by an international Conference.

The "Matin" further asserts that nothing will tire the patience and good-will of the French, and hopes that these qualities will lead to a satisfactory solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 65.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 25.)

(No. 243.)
My Lord, *Fez, September* 15, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 239 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Maclean reporting the conclusion of the inquiry into the murder of Mr. Madden, the result of which is that four of the accused have formally pleaded guilty, and there appears to be no doubt as to the guilt of the fifth.

There is no doubt that this so far satisfactory conclusion is due to the care and energy bestowed by Mr. Maclean upon the case, as very little assistance was forthcoming on the part of the Governor.

It now remains for your Lordship to decide as to what demands should be presented to the Moorish Government for the punishment of these men.

Mr. Maclean has made certain suggestions which I am, to-day, transmitting to your Lordship by telegraph, and which appear to me to generally meet the case.

It is unfortunate that Abdrahman-ben-Yusif, the instigator of the crime, cannot be captured, but it does not seem to me desirable that any further delay should occur for that reason in proceeding with the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Consul Maclean to Mr. Lowther.

(Separate.)
Sir, *Mazagan, September* 1, 1905.

ON the 30th ultimo I reported to your Excellency that the murderers of Mr. Madden are known and are in prison. They are five in number, and all of them have privately confessed, but only four have formally pleaded guilty in the presence of the Governor, notaries, and myself.

It is satisfactory and unusual in this country that the guilt of the criminals should have been proved to the hilt.

Their names are—

1. Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie.
2. Hamed-ben-Bwee.
3. Mesod-bel-Embark-bel-Maischie.
4. M'hamed Wold Mesod-bel-Larbie.
5. Bonshaib-ben-M'hamed-ben-Naami.

I will not weary your Excellency with a long history of the case, it is sufficient to observe that the authority of the Moorish Government is admittedly ineffective. and that the detection, tracking, and capture of the criminals, one by one, and discovery of the witnesses against them, were all due to the efforts of those working for this Consulate, and it is not a little remarkable that all five of the murderers were securely in prison before any confession was made.

The first really reliable clue was the production of the watch to Mr. Carleton, by a man who gave the name of one of the murderers.

The informer's story was false in some particulars, but it led to the immediate capture of one of the murderers.

The final revelation was brought about by the widow being able to point out the man who shot at her from among several others submitted to her inspection.

I was at her elbow at the time, and all doubt was removed from my mind. There was instant recognition between the two parties concerned.

The man's name is M'hamed Wold Mesod-bel-Larbie. He did not deny his guilt, and after I had left the scene he gave a full account of the crime.

Directly his accomplices became aware M'hamed Wold Mesod had confessed, they each had something to say, and when confronted with one another, they quarrelled over the details of the money transaction in connection with the crime.

In this way the whole story came out.

Later, Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney and a British subject named Jaime De Maria

interviewed each of the ruffians separately, in order to make certain that they had not been dictated to in any way.

On the following day, each of the guilty men, with the exception of one, Hamed-ben-Bwee, repeated his confession in the presence of the Governor, the Adool (Notaries) and myself.

Their statements were taken down. These differ in detail but not in essentials and circumstantial evidence exists for the purposes of corroboration.

For example, one of the culprits gave the colour of the bed coverings correctly, and the description of the rooms in the house. Another mentions the iron peg, used to remove the window frame, which is in our possession.

We have outside evidence that Abdrahman-ben-Yusif was seen on the night of the crime walking towards the house with a man in a black "khaneef." This corroborates one particular in Bonshaib-ben-Naami's account, as he himself was in a black "khaneef."

One of the prisoners says that Bonshaib-ben-Naami did not enter the room. Another says he did; he himself says he remained outside, but there is no doubt that all five men entered the room and shared equally in the crime.

The prisoners had learnt the widow's first story, related the day after the murder, to the effect that she only saw four men, one of whom was in a black "khaneef."

They all agree that the single black "khaneef" among them was worn by Bonshaib-ben-Naami.

The story as proved is to the following effect:—

Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie was the ringleader, and had hired the other four men to assist him to murder Daniel Madden. They were a month discussing and planning the crime. Each of them was promised 20 dollars and actually, four of them only, received seven, say, 15*s.* 9*d.* a-piece. (This breach of contract probably led to the disclosure of the names of the culprits, as one of the latter is a brother to the wife of the informer who produced the watch.)

This part of the confession proves that the object of the murderers was not ordinary robbery. It was well known that the victim had a considerable sum of money in his possession, over 4,000 dollars, but the murderers, in reply to my question, stated that they were not aware of it, and it is not to be supposed that for the promise of a reward of 20 dollars they would rob 4,000 dollars for the benefit of a party who did not share their risks.

Boafee stated that he was hired by Abdrahman-ben-Yusif to engage men to murder Mr. Madden and to obtain certain documents, and this story is corroborated by Bonshaib-ben-Naami and another.

It is noteworthy that it was possible to hire five men at 20 dollars a-head to kill a European; and the victim was a Consular officer.

Nothing has come to light to lead one to suppose that any one of these five murderers had any personal spite or feelings of revenge against Mr. Madden. They were simply agents hired to kill the man. The price they received seems to be the measure of the security to life enjoyed by Europeans in Mazagan.

I know of no incident in the recent history of Morocco which demonstrates so forcibly the decline of European and British prestige, and, I submit, it is important to bear this point in mind when considering the question of the punishment of the criminals.

The guilt of four of the murderers has been established in accordance with Moorish law, the proofs are comprised in the notarial document, copy of which is already in your Excellency's possession.

The law requires that a man should confess a murder before his life can be demanded. If two or more persons confess to having together murdered any one then all their lives are forfeited.

It follows that in this case the Moorish authorities would be bound by their own law and religion to execute the four murderers who formally confessed, unless there are special reasons for clemency.

I am strongly of opinion that the ringleader, Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie, should be executed. This man is older than the others, is intelligent, has been for many years in the French Colony of Oran, and before his guilt was proved he deliberately and spontaneously denounced innocent men as the murderers.

I am equally of opinion that it is necessary to execute a second of the murderers.

Moors of the class of the criminals think little of being imprisoned, and it must be demonstrated that a man who allows himself to be hired to kill a British subject is equally guilty with the man who hired him.

The second murderer to be executed should be Mesod Wold Embark-bel-Maischie, whose criminal record is a very bad one, and includes at least one other murder.

Two of the others, Hamed-ben-Bwee and M'hamed Wold Mesod, should be imprisoned, *sine die*, elsewhere than in Mazagan. Hamed-ben-Bwee has a long prison record, and M'hamed Wold Mesod is the man who shot at Mrs. Madden, but he is only about twenty years old, and it was he who first confessed to the murder.

There remains Bonshaib-ben-Naami, who is only a youth, hardly eighteen. He appears to have been the scapegoat of Abdrahman-ben-Yesif, with whom he had been drinking just before the crime was committed. I think a couple of years' imprisonment in Dar-al-Baida would reform him.

I have sounded local Moorish opinion, and I find that there is a general sense of satisfaction that the guilt of the criminals has been brought home.

There exists no sympathy for any of the prisoners even among their own relatives. The father of one of them called to ask us to have his son executed.

The best native opinion is to the effect that at least three of the culprits should be publicly executed in Mazagan.

It is regarded as necessary in the present state of affairs.

I realize my responsibility when I submit my strong opinion that the two men I have mentioned, Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie and Mesod-ben-Embark-bel-Maischie, must pay the first penalty.

There are no extenuating circumstances. It was a cruel murder of a British subject committed in cold blood.

I believe that the execution can be safely carried out in Mazagan without the risk of any hostile expressions of feeling on the part of the native population, and I am fortified in this opinion by the views confidentially expressed of a high Moorish authority.

I submit that the presence of a warship is not necessary, but I think one should arrive on the day after the execution to acknowledge that satisfaction for the murder has been given, and to afford me a passage back to Dar-al-Baida.

Orders can be given by the Makhzen to the Amin here or to the Commissioner, Wold Ci Ali-el-Mesfiwi (who has not yet arrived), to make and carry out all the simple arrangements necessary for the execution, which I am certain the situation requires.

I have referred to the instigator of the murder, Abdrahman-ben-Yesif. His motive is not yet conclusively proved. His hired assassins state that it was to obtain a document. There have been throughout the case repeated rumours about some document supposed to have been in the possession of the deceased. The Governor, as well as the Oolad Yessif, is somehow mixed up in this, and while I am awaiting your Excellency's commands about the disposal of the prisoners I will do my best to probe this phase of the case.

Failing the existence of a document the motive must have been revenge, aimed at the victim himself or at the Governor.

Evidence of more or less value was forthcoming early in the case that Abdrahman had endeavoured to hire a different gang of men to commit the crime.

The local authorities inform me that they are still endeavouring to capture this man.

I would venture to suggest that if your Excellency decides on the execution of two of the murderers, said execution should be carried out on the day preceding one of the usual market days, and that the ship-of-war, should one be sent, should arrive here on a market day, when the town is full of tribesmen from the interior.

The market days are Sunday and Thursday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 66.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 25.)

(No. 244.)

My Lord, *Fez, September* 16, 1905.

THE French Minister had to-day an audience of the Sultan, the first since the end of May.

His Excellency took advantage of the settlement of the Bu Mzian incident to renew

personal relations with His Majesty, which had been interrupted in a somewhat brusque manner by the refusal of His Majesty to accede to any points in the French programme of reform.

To-day M. Saint-René told His Majesty that he had received instructions from his Government to express their entire satisfaction with the solution given to the Bu Mzian incident. His Majesty replied that once there was no doubt that the French demands were justified he could but give the desired satisfaction, but he was not sure that he had been properly informed regarding the true facts, and on His Majesty's invitation M. Saint-René gave a brief *exposé* of the whole case, and drew from His Majesty an admission that if those were the facts the French Government had evidently right on its side.

No reference whatever was made either by His Majesty or the Minister to the Conference or to reform, and M. Saint-René Taillandier tells me that the audience, which His Majesty opened with a somewhat frigid manner, concluded quite cordially.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 67.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 25.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 16, 1905.

WITH reference to my Separate telegram of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, after two days' debate, the rival Governors, Duas and Reisouli, have, at any rate temporarily, settled their differences. This settlement was, it appears, to a great extent, brought about by the mediation of the Commander of the M'halla which is encamped in this neighbourhood.

The conditions of this settlement seem to have been the mutual return of animals captured, and the release of prisoners; but it is said that Reisouli will, however, in future desist from collecting the tax on all produce sold by natives in this market. He has also agreed that if the majority of the Wad Ras tribe declare that they no longer wish to have him as their Governor, he will resign that post in favour of their own nominee.

Such generosity on the part of Reisouli is not natural, and it would seem to point to the fact that he no longer feels himself so powerful. This fact is not lost sight of by his enemies and rivals, who will probably attack him again as soon as it is convenient to them to do so.

I am told that the German Chargé d'Affaires has complained to Sid Torres that the Commander of the local M'halla, instead of aiding Reisouli to quell these disturbances, encouraged the Anghera tribes to attack. This would seem to be a wholly unjustifiable accusation on the part of Baron Langwerth, which was, I hear, promptly denied by Sid Torres.

It is not at all improbable that these disturbances were instigated by the Governor of Tangier, who is very bitter against Reisouli on account of his having been given a district which used to form part of the Tangier Bashalic, and who would not hesitate to get his rival into trouble for failing to keep order in his district, not to mention the possibility of his being taken or shot in the course of the operations.

It appears that the Makhzen will not openly attempt to capture Reisouli, lest they should fail, when he would most certainly at once retaliate by capturing a European; but should he gain greater confidence and leave his stronghold, it is possible they might avail themselves of a good opportunity and seize him unawares.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 68.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 25.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that since the Concession to construct a mole at Tangier was granted to the German firm of Borgeaud, Reutmann, and Co. last July, there has been no sign here of any steps being taken to commence building operations.

Shortly after the Contract was signed a member of that firm left here for Germany, with the intention, it was said, of purchasing the necessary material; but hitherto no such material has arrived here.

The German contention that the Concession was granted to the contracting firm prior to the Franco-German Agreement of the 8th July is absolutely disputed by the French Legation here, who declare that so far back as the 15th March last the French Compagnie Marocaine obtained permission from the Maghzen to prepare plans for the construction of a mole in Tangier Bay, at the same time a Shereefian letter arrived addressed to Ben Said, who was at that time Acting Commissioner here, instructing him to afford this French Company every assistance towards carrying out the studies about to be undertaken. It was not until the 25th March that the German firm Borgeaud, Reutmann, and Co. obtained leave to draw up plans for improving the harbour here.

In order the better to support their argument that the French Company received Shereefian authority to draw up plans for the proposed works prior to the similar authority granted to the German firm, the French Legation here have received instructions from Paris to endeavour to obtain a copy of the instructions to Ben Said to afford facilities. Sid Torres, however, to whom application was made, has replied that Ben Said, when he left Tangier, took away this letter with him, but that, in any case, had the letter been in his hands, he could not allow a copy thereof to be made without receiving instructions from the Maghzen to that effect.

Count Saint-Aulaire has obtained from Baron von Langwerth a copy of the Shereefian letter received by Herr von Kühlman, the then German Chargé d'Affaires. This letter, which was in reply to one from him on the subject, stated that His Shereefian Majesty had been for some time considering the necessity of improving the port of Tangier, and had for this purpose appointed a native engineer to study the question and send in a report.

The Maghzen further authorized a German Company to draw up plans for such improvements and suggested that a German engineer should be appointed to examine the proposals, both of the Moorish engineer and of the German Company, and that he should transmit his opinions, when formed, to Fez for the consideration of the Maghzen, who would inform the German Legation of their decision as soon as one could be arrived at.

Count Saint-Aulaire has pointed out to me that from the foregoing it is clear that the Shereefian letter received by the German Chargé d'Affaires in March contained no concession in any form whatsoever for the construction of a mole, but merely a permission to draw up certain proposals for such a construction, a similar permission having already been accorded to a French firm, who had immediately engaged M. Renaud, an engineer of considerable distinction and undisputed ability, to conduct the necessary sounding and surveying operations and draw up his reports and make proposals therefrom. M. de Saint-Aulaire further maintains that the actual Concession was obtained subsequent to the Franco-German Agreement of the 8th July, the spirit of which was directly violated thereby.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 69.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 25.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 25, 1905.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 52 of the 24th September.

Kaïd Maclean, to whom I have spoken, has assured me that he will refuse to entertain the idea of raising a loan for the Sultan privately should His Majesty ask him to do so.

I had already informed Mr. Lowther of all the communications made to me on the subject by Kaïd Maclean.

No. 70.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Lowther.

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 25, 1905.

MADDEN murder. Your despatch No. 243 of the 15th instant.

We are clearly entitled to demand the punishments suggested by Mr. Maclean.

Sir A. Nicolson is, however, of opinion that (1) the effect which would be produced locally by the infliction of a long term of imprisonment coupled with the payment of an indemnity would in all probability be as great as that of execution, and (2) we may find it difficult to obtain an indemnity in addition to execution. In such case it might be to our advantage not to demand execution, especially if there is any possibility of its being necessary to enforce compliance on the Moorish authorities. Outside Morocco, on the other hand, execution would certainly produce a good effect, and, unless you attach weight to the considerations to which I have referred, I authorize you to demand it in the two cases selected by Mr. Maclean. You should not, however, mention date of execution.

I approve the other recommendations made by Mr. Maclean.

No. 71.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 27.)

(No. 348.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 24, 1905.

YESTERDAY, when I had carried out your Lordship's instructions of the 22nd in regard to the project for a loan for the Cretan insurgents, I asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether any progress was being made in the negotiations with Germany respecting Morocco.

M. Rouvier said that the German Government did not seem to desire a speedy conclusion. It was difficult to judge what the German Government wanted, for almost every day some fresh point was raised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 72.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 27.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 27, 1905.

THE negotiations connected with the German proposed loan are, so Mr. Abensur tells me, in active progress.

I have forwarded by to-day's post a despatch containing full details.

No. 73.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 634.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 27, 1905.

THE French Minister called upon me this afternoon, and gave me the following confidential information as to the progress of the negotiations between France and Germany as to Morocco:—

The Franco-German negotiations relating to Morocco have been delayed for some time owing to some difficulties as to the reservations to be inserted in the programme of the Conference with regard to the region adjoining the frontier. The French Government, taking their stand upon the rights which have belonged to them for fifty years (Treaty of 1845), and upon the special position which has been expressly recognized to them by the Agreement of the 8th July last, proposed a wording which should place beyond discussion their exclusive right to regulate questions relating to the policing of this region by direct agreement with the Sultan to the exclusion of international intervention in any circumstance and at any time, with the sole reservation that France shall respect her engagements with regard to the independence of the Sultan and the integrity of his territory. M. Rosen refused to accept a formula so explicit. He considered that it was sufficient to reserve to France the rights which she had acquired by Treaty or Agreement in the region adjoining the frontier, thus leaving open to international interference all matters not regulated by these Agreements.

But, after an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the German Delegate agreed on the 15th September to submit to the approval of the Imperial Government a wording sufficiently satisfactory to France. On the 19th September, after a short absence, M. Rouvier learnt that M. Rosen had altered his mind. Losing sight of the fact that it was only a question of drawing up a programme, not of coming to final decisions, he now wanted to make an acceptance of the French proposals concerning the region adjoining the frontier conditional upon France entering into an agreement not to ask at the Conference for a mandate to organize alone and without participation the police in the rest of the Moroccan Empire.

M. Rouvier refused to accept a solution which would have altered the basis of the negotiations. It seemed to him that, after having recognized that it was not desirable to prejudge in any way the decisions of the Conference, Germany could not without inconsistency make her definitive acceptance of the programme subject to such a condition. He further pointed out to M. Rosen and Prince Radolin that there was no practical necessity for the undertaking they were asking him to give, and that as the decisions of the Conference were to be unanimous, Germany had a sufficient guarantee against France being intrusted with an exclusive mandate, since she had the right to oppose it, and thus to prevent the realization of the French claim.

The persevering efforts made by Prince Radolin and M. Rosen to induce the Minister for Foreign Affairs to take an engagement in some shape or form on this point have led M. Rouvier to believe that they have misunderstood his real intentions. Faithful to the understanding of the 8th July, he has never at any moment desired to anticipate the decisions of the Conference. He has only affirmed that he desired as much as the Imperial Government to avoid any flagrant disagreement between France and Germany at the Conference, and to co-operate in the work of bringing about at the said Conference those solutions which will best serve the interests and *amour-propre* of the two Powers.

With this object, he has suggested to the Representative of Germany the following wording of the draft programme:—

"The two Governments have agreed to propose to the Sultan the following draft programme drawn up in conformity with the principles adopted in the notes exchanged on the 8th July:—

"1. Organization by means of an international agreement of the police outside the region adjoining the frontier.

"2. Supervision and suppression by the same means of the traffic in arms.

"3. Financial reforms.

"(The rest as in the programme of the 30th August.)"

Prince Radolin and M. Rosen promised on the 23rd September to submit the above draft to Prince Bülow, to whom it has also been communicated by the French Ambassador in Berlin.

M. Bihourd was directed to point out to the Chancellor that, with a view to conciliation, the Minister for Foreign Affairs had not reproduced in the new draft the wording at first proposed by him, but the German Government will understand that it is not possible to abandon the reservation itself. M. Bihourd has also been directed to inform Prince Bülow that the French Government are anxious that the programme of the Conference should be promptly settled and communicated to the Sultan and to the Powers signatories of the Madrid Convention. They would not refuse any subsequent discussions which the Imperial Government may desire.

It would appear from the language held in private by M. Rosen in Paris, that the demand which he made with regard to a renunciation in advance by France of the exclusive mandate which might be offered to her did not form part of his instructions, and that he had taken upon himself the initiative in the matter.

An agreement seems to have been reached on the questions of the place of meeting of the Conference, of the loan, and of the port of Tangier.

I asked M. Geoffray whether he knew the place of meeting that had been selected. He said that upon this point also it had been impossible to obtain a distinct reply from the German Government. It was, however, his impression that Algeciras would probably be accepted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 74.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 28.)

(Separate.)
Tangier, September 21, 1905.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that three days ago the Wazzan Shereef Muley Ali went out, accompanied by the Commander of the M'hallah, to a village some 3 hours distant from here, with the object of settling the differences between the Beni Mesouar tribe and Reisouli. This tribe had, early in the course of the recent disturbances, captured the mother of Reisouli, whose release the Shereef Muley Ali hoped, by means of the religious influence which he possesses over these tribes, to effect.

The nominal Governor, a partisan of Reisouli's, against whom part of the Beni Mesouar tribe had rebelled, refused to comply with Muley Ali's request to be present at these proceedings, and on this account the meeting proved abortive of any result. The Shereef returned here yesterday very much annoyed at the want of respect shown to him.

Yesterday a deputation arrived here from the Beni Mesouar tribe and had an interview with Sid Torres, at which they obtained from him a promise to write to Fez and attempt to secure the Sultan's consent to the release of five members of the tribe who were sent from here on the 5th instant, by the orders of Reisouli, under strong escort to Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 75.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 96. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P.
Fez, September 25, 1905.

MR. WYLDBORE SMITH'S telegram, Separate, of the 21st instant.

The French Government would obviously very much object to Kaïd Maclean negotiating a loan scheme at Fez, and it seems to me to be most desirable that your Lordship should send him a message couched in strong terms to persuade him not to mix himself in such a scheme.

No. 76.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Lowther.

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) P.
Foreign Office, September 29, 1905.

AN official announcement appears in the French newspapers to the effect that the French and German Governments have come to an agreement in regard to the Morocco Conference.

The provisions are understood to be as follows:—

1. The police outside the frontier region is to be organized by international agreement.

2. The supervision and repression of contraband trade in arms to be carried out in a similar manner.

3. Financial reforms.

The remainder agrees with the programme of the 30th August.

Algeciras has been chosen as the place of meeting.

A group of German and French banks are to make an advance to the Sultan for a short period. This will be repaid out of the next loan raised, or by the future State Bank.

An examination will be held into the respective titles of French and German Companies for the construction of the proposed Tangier mole.

No. 77.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 357.)
My Lord,
Paris, September 28, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 64 of to-day, I have the honour to transmit herewith, extracted from to-night's "Temps,"* the text of an official note announcing that an agreement was arrived at to-day by the French and German Governments on the subject of the programme of the proposed Conference on the affairs of Morocco, which is to be submitted to the Sultan.

The note specifies the points which will be included in the programme, and makes special mention of the omission of the question of frontier police, which is to be dealt with by France and Morocco alone.

The Spanish Government are to be asked whether they will consent to the Conference being held at Algeciras.

The French and German Governments have come to an understanding with regard to the recent advance to the Sultan, and the Concession for the mole at Tangier.

The French and German Missions are to leave Fez as soon as the programme has been submitted to the Sultan.

The termination of the negotiations is hailed with satisfaction by the "Temps" and "Journal des Débats," both of which papers publish articles commenting very favourably on the terms of the note.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador.)
(Signed) J. L. BAIRD.

No. 78.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 635.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, September 30, 1905.

THE French Minister called here to-day and communicated, by instructions of his Government, the text of the draft Programme of the Morocco Conference, which was signed on the 28th instant by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs and the German Ambassador in Paris. A copy of this document is inclosed. The text is to be submitted to the Sultan of Morocco by the French and German Ministers at Fez.

* Not printed.

M. Geoffray at the same time left a *pro-memoriâ*, in which it was stated that the French and German Governments had agreed to ask Spain if she would consent to the selection of Algeciras as the seat of the Conference. He was instructed to inform me that the French Minister at Fez has been authorized to communicate to his English colleague the documents recording the Franco-German Agreement as soon as he has received them. M. Saint-René Taillandier has been left at liberty to decide whether he should concert with the German Minister and take joint action with him to explain the Programme to the Sultan, and Count Tattenbach is to receive similar instructions from his Government.

It has been agreed between the French and German Governments that the two Missions should leave Fez as soon as possible. M. Saint-René Taillandier has been authorized not to delay his departure in the improbable event of the Makhzen raising difficulties in regard to the Programme.

M. Geoffray further left at this Office a copy of a note agreed upon and signed by M. Révoil and M. de Rosen, which was communicated to the press. A copy of that document is also transmitted herewith.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

Text of Draft Programme. Signed at Paris, September 28, 1905.

LES deux Gouvernements se sont mis d'accord pour proposer au Sultan le projet de programme suivant élaboré en conformité des principes adoptés dans l'échange de lettres du 8 Juillet :—

1.—(1.) L'organisation, par voie d'accord international, de la police hors de la région frontière.

(2.) Règlement organisant la surveillance et la répression de la contrebande des armes. Dans la région frontière, l'application de ce Règlement restera l'affaire exclusive de la France et du Maroc.

2. *Réforme Financière.*—Concours financier donné au Maghzen par la création d'une Banque d'État avec privilège d'émission, se chargeant des opérations de trésorerie, s'entremettant pour la frappe de la monnaie, dont les bénéfices appartiendraient au Maghzen.

La Banque d'État procéderait à l'assainissement de la situation monétaire.

Les crédits ouverts au Maghzen seraient employés à l'équipement et à la solde des troupes de police et à certains travaux publics urgents, notamment à l'amélioration des ports et de leur outillage.

3. Étude d'un meilleur rendement des impôts et de la création de nouveaux revenus.

4. Engagement par le Maghzen de n'aliéner aucun des services publics au profit d'intérêts particuliers.

Principe de l'adjudication, sans acception de nationalité, pour les travaux publics.

Fait à Paris, le 28 Septembre, 1905.

(Signé) ROUVIER.
RADOLIN.

(Translation.)

THE two Governments have agreed to propose to the Sultan the following draft programme, which has been drawn up in conformity with the principles adopted in the notes exchanged on the 8th July :—

1.—(1.) The organization, by international agreement, of the police service outside the frontier region.

(2.) Regulations for the supervision and suppression of the smuggling of arms. In the frontier region the application of these Regulations shall be the exclusive concern of France and Morocco.

2. *Financial Reforms.*—Financial assistance to the Makhzen by the institution of a State Bank, with the privilege of issuing notes; intrusted with treasury operation and undertaking the coinage of money, the profits of which would belong to the Makhzen.

The State Bank would proceed to put the currency on a sound footing.

The credits granted to the Makhzen would be affected to the equipment and pay of the police, and to certain urgent public works, notably the improvement of the ports and provision of the necessary machinery.

3. Investigation as to a better result of taxation, and creation of new sources of revenue.

4. Undertaking on the part of the Makhzen not to alienate any of the public services in favour of private interests.

The principle of open tenders for public works without distinction of nationality.

Done at Paris, 28th September, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

A Note signed by M. Révoil and M. de Rosen, and communicated to the Press.

LES négociations entre la France et l'Allemagne concernant le projet de programme de la Conférence sur les affaires Marocaines viennent d'aboutir.

L'accord s'est fait sur un programme qui comprend : organisation de la police, Règlement concernant la surveillance et la répression de la contrebande des armes, réformes financières, consistant principalement dans l'institution d'une Banque d'État, étude d'un meilleur rendement des impôts et de la création de nouveaux revenus, enfin fixation de certains principes destinés à sauvegarder la liberté économique.

Quant à la région frontière, par une réserve spéciale insérée au projet de programme il est entendu que les questions de police continuent à y être réglées directement et exclusivement entre la France et le Sultan, et restent en dehors du programme de la Conférence. Dans la même région, l'application du Règlement sur la contrebande des armes restera l'affaire exclusive de la France et du Maroc.

Les deux Gouvernements se sont mis d'accord pour demander à l'Espagne si elle accepterait que la ville d'Algéciras fût choisie comme lieu de réunion de la Conférence.

En ce qui concerne la question de l'emprunt et du port, elles ont été réglées de la manière suivante :—

Pressé par sa situation financière, le Maghzen s'était adressé à un intermédiaire étranger résidant au Maroc—qui a eu lui-même recours à un groupe de banques Allemandes—pour obtenir une avance de courte durée remboursable sur le prochain emprunt ; le Gouvernement Marocain offrait en gage ses biens immobiliers dans les différentes villes de la côte.

Un accord s'est établi entre le groupe des banques Allemandes et le consortium des banques Françaises, en vue de participer à cette opération, qui gardera son caractère d'avance de courte durée, avec gage spécial, et remboursable sur le prochain emprunt ou par les voies et moyens de la Banque d'État, dont la création figure au programme de la Conférence. L'opération laisse intacte la question du droit de préférence du consortium Français.

En ce qui concerne la construction d'un môle dans le port de Tanger, le Gouvernement Marocain avait, par une lettre adressée à la Légation d'Allemagne en date du 26 Mars, demandé à la maison Borgeaud et Reutemann l'établissement de deux plans entre lesquels il choisirait. Comme, à la même époque, une Compagnie Française avait été autorisée à étudier les mêmes travaux, il a été entendu qu'on prendrait un délai pour examiner les titres de cette Compagnie, et que, à moins que la Compagnie Française ne présente des titres identiques à celui de la Compagnie Allemande, celle-ci exécutera les travaux commandés par le Maghzen.

Le projet de programme et la proposition concernant le lieu de la réunion de la Conférence vont être soumis, sans délai, par les deux Gouvernements à l'adhésion du Sultan et à celle des Puissances Signataires de la Convention de Madrid ou y ayant adhéré.

Dès que les propositions concernant le programme et le lieu de la réunion de la Conférence auront été soumises au Sultan, les deux Missions quitteront Fez pour retourner à Tanger.

(Translation.)

THE negotiations between France and Germany concerning the draft of a programme for the Conference on Moorish affairs have just been concluded.

A programme has been agreed upon comprising the organization of the police service, Regulations respecting the supervision and suppression of the smuggling of arms, financial reforms, consisting principally in the establishment of a State Bank, the study of an improvement in the return of the taxes and the creation of new sources of revenue, and finally, the establishment of certain principles destined to safeguard economic freedom.

As regards the frontier region, it is agreed, by a special reservation inserted in the draft programme, that the questions of police shall continue to be settled there directly and exclusively between France and the Sultan, and shall remain outside the programme of the Conference. In the same region the application of the Regulation concerning the smuggling of arms shall continue to be the exclusive concern of France and Morocco.

The two Governments have agreed to ask Spain whether she will consent to the town of Algeciras being chosen as the meeting-place of the Conference.

As regards the question of the loan and the port, they have been settled in the following manner :—

Under the pressure of its financial situation, the Makhzen applied to a foreign intermediary residing in Morocco, who himself had recourse to a group of German banks, to obtain an advance for a short time, repayable by the next loan; the Moorish Government offered as security their landed property in the different coast towns. An agreement has been arrived at between the group of German banks and the consortium of French banks in view of participating in this operation, which will retain its character of an advance for a short period with special security, and be repayable out of the next loan or through the instrumentality of the State Bank, the creation of which figures in the programme of the Conference. The operation does not affect the question of the right of preference of the French consortium.

As regards the construction of a mole in the port of Tangier, the Moorish Government, by a letter addressed to the German Legation dated the 26th March, had asked the firm of Borgeaud and Reutemann to draw up two plans, between which they would choose. As at the same time a French Company had been authorized to study the same works, it was agreed that there should be a delay for the purpose of examining the titles of that Company, and that unless the French Company presented titles identical with those of the German Company, the latter should execute the works ordered by the Makhzen.

The draft programme and the proposal concerning the place of meeting of the Conference are to be submitted forthwith by the two Governments to the Sultan for his adhesion, and to those Powers who were Signatories to the Madrid Convention or have adhered thereto.

As soon as the proposals respecting the programme and the place of meeting of the Conference have been submitted to the Sultan the two Missions will leave Fez and return to Tangier.

No. 79.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Lowther.

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1905.

THE Franco-German Agreement in regard to the Morocco Conference has been communicated by the French Minister.

It corresponds with the description contained in my telegram No. 54 of the 29th ultimo. You will receive the text from your French colleague.

It is left to the discretion of the French and German Ministers to make a joint communication to the Sultan in regard to the programme of the Conference.

The French and German Missions will leave Fez as early as possible.

You may make arrangements in consultation with your French colleague for returning to Tangier as soon as may be convenient.

No. 80.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 245.)
My Lord, *Fez, September* 19, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 243 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Maclean with regard to certain points in connection with the Madden murder.

There appears to be no new light thrown on the case, beyond the fact that Abderahman-ben-Yusef, the instigator of the crime, has been heard of at Dar-al-Baida, and it is stated that his presence was well known to some Germans, who failed to give the information in the proper quarter.

I have received an indication that the man (that) has joined Raisuli, but this is so far not corroborated.

The news received by the Makhzen is that he is probably in the Zimmur country, where it will be difficult to secure him.

The remark made by Mr. Maclean, to the effect that blood-relationship and enmity in this country are practically synonymous, is worthy of note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Consul Maclean to Mr. Lowther.

Sir, *Mazagan, September* 10, 1905.

RELATIVE to the Mazagan murder case, the newly-appointed Commissioner, Ned Sid Ali-el-Misfirvi, arrived here on the 8th instant, and Hadj Tuby Sabehee is acting with him.

This morning I had a long interview with these two officials, and they arrived at the conclusion that the guilt of the five murderers having been established and reported to the Magkagen, their duty is to await further instructions, and in the meantime they would endeavour to bring about the capture of Abdrahman-ben-Yessif; they would also address themselves to the task of elucidating the motive which incited the crime.

The Commissioners state that at present they are of opinion that the crime was instigated by the Ulad Yessif, whom they describe as people of bad character, accustomed to encompass their ends through criminal means in order to get the Governor into trouble.

The Ulad Yessif are well known to Hadj Tuby Sabehee, who had recently adjudicated in their favour in the matter of a long-pending land question between them and the Governor of Mazagan.

He considers that, apart from the confessions of the murderers, the fact that Bonshaib-ben-Naami is among them, is proof that his uncles, the Ulad-bin-Yessif, were at the bottom of the crime.

Hadj Tuby is further of the opinion, so he informs me, that the Governor is capable of pretending the Ulad-ben-Yessif were concerned, even if there was no evidence to establish their complicity.

The two branches of the same family have been enemies for many years.

One of the most formidable difficulties I have had to contend against in my inquiry has been the blood-relationship and enmity existing between the Governor and suspected persons.

Abdrahman-ben-Yessif was last heard of in Dar-el-Baida. The probability of his going there was known, and the Governor of Dar-el-Baida had been requested to look out for him and to seize him. Unfortunately, he escaped; although some Germans and others knew of his whereabouts, they failed to inform the British Consulate or the Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 81.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 246. Confidential.)

Fez, September 19, 1905.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 204 of the 30th July, I have now the honour to transmit herewith a translation of the letter issued by the Makhzen to certain tribes, inviting them to send Notables to Fez to take part in the discussion regarding the state of the country.

This letter has been read in the market-places, but not in the mosques, and it was not sent to any of the ports, the reason for which becomes apparent on a perusal of the document.

Your Lordship will observe that the letter contains distinct statements to the effect that the Algerian Government has been materially assisting the Pretender, and very thinly-veiled insinuations that the present condition of the country is in a measure due to the assistance thus rendered.

The French Minister informs me that he has sent this document to his Government, but that he has neither taken any action on it, nor even given any indication that he was aware of its existence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Letter addressed by the Makhzen to certain Tribes inviting them to send Notables to Fez.

(Translation from a French translation of the original Arabic.)

TO our devoted servants of the tribe of Chaonïa, and especially to their Kaïds, their Notables, and Chief. Greeting.

May God assist you and grant you his mercy.

After which:

You know that since God has placed us on the throne of our illustrious ancestors, he put upon us the burden of watching over Islam, and trusted us with the direction of our Shereefian subjects. We have endeavoured to surround them with everything which would meet with divine satisfaction, giving them advice and purifying their souls. We suffer trouble for their good, and bear with those events which may one day lead them in the right path. We exhaust ourselves that they may enjoy repose and security, and our eyelids know no sleep that theirs may close, in order to safeguard the faithful, to direct them in the right way, and to assure them all good in this life and in the next. In this we adhere to the words of the prophet—may God extend to him blessing and peace—"Every man to whom God has confided the care of subjects must care for them as for his own person, otherwise he will be unworthy of the perfume of paradise."

We do not cease to believe that as regards our subjects God will extend to them his favours, and will avert from them those calamities which have their root in disobedience to divine precepts, so that they may be guarded from the shock of untoward events, and protected on all sides, as with a great wall, from those ever present dangers that stretch forth a menacing arm. So much so that, if the faithful appreciated the extent of our efforts to defend them, they would sacrifice themselves for us body and soul, and small and great would hasten to submit to us in all sincerity.

When God put to the test the band of rebels by sowing in their hearts the seed of affection for the agitator who assumed for them the shape of a tempting demon, the incitements of the Rogni spread amongst the tribes whose good faith was taken by surprise, and through him the poison of revolt infected the misguided ones. The rebellion has reached the point that you yourselves are aware of, and God has darkened the hearts of many of the rebels in reason of their thoughtlessness and obstinacy.

It is on this account that Algeria has begun to stir, and has conceived matters prejudicial to our Shereefian subjects. She has cast her eyes unwaveringly towards

threatening events; she has boldly aspired to stretch forth a hand of aggression over the faithful; and she has sharpened her sword in order to attack our religion. That is the danger against which we have guarded and which we have repelled; that has been our occupation. For this reason we have treated with benevolence the people of our Shereefian Empire, in order that there should be perfect harmony among them, and that they should be bound by the same tie. For this reason we have expended a vast amount of treasure, and mobilized numberless mehallas, soldiers, and armies in excess of our provision.

We have employed all our efforts to direct our subjects in the right path by every available means. We have striven to ameliorate their lot and establish their lasting prosperity. In spite of this a large number of misguided ones still remain ignorant of the result of their rebellion, and careless of what will come of their waywardness and obstinacy; they do not realize how greatly we wish their good, how we protect them from danger, and defend their country and their honour from the black peril; and when we categorically denied those who make ambitious designs refusing to agree to what might prejudice the faithful, they failed to conceal their desire to increase their pretentions obstinately and unreasonably, rendering it clear and manifest what dangers were to be guarded against, even to the point of unmasking their designs. We have acquired the conviction that the Rogni is acting under their influence and at their instigation; that it is they who help him in order that they may attain their object and realize their hopes; and that they have joined him that they may sow the seeds of discord among our subjects until they have succeeded in accomplishing their desire.

Thus Algeria has helped the Rogni in view of increasing his power both by words and acts, and has undertaken to incite the tribes to take up his cause; she has acted in this deliberately and not from thoughtlessness; she looked for pretexts which would produce weakness and disaffection amongst our subjects; she announced her intention of following our army of Onjda, of impeding its actions, of intercepting the provisions destined for it which had to cross her territory, of seizing what we sent in the way of stores, arms, and ammunition, so taking this opportunity of obstructing us and doing us violence, and to benefit therefrom in order to generalize her prejudicial action and become master of our subjects.

No true believer ignores that a close union constitutes a guarantee for the salvation of the people, and that only when disunion shows itself amongst them comes dishonour and misery (quotation from the Koran). "If they triumph over you, they will have no further regard for you, and will not even respect their engagements." To defend our subjects we have indured more than you can believe, and we have taken upon ourselves the initiative of disputing and of categorically refusing their demands. If the faithful knew what the Makhzen has borne with on this account they would hasten to come to their assistance in offering their blood and their children, and obviously also their property and their lands; they would place at the disposal of the Government all that they possess in order to be saved from this great danger, and to preserve in its integrity the power of Islam; and this power can be organized only by the Makhzen being in the position of enforcing its orders and decisions. The means of attaining this end can only be found by the help of our subjects and the payment of the taxes which purifies them of danger; it is for this reason that God has placed the levying of the "zekket" and of the "lachour" among the fundamental precepts of religion, the payment of these taxes being the most important factor of that power that is necessary for the safety of the faithful.

Thus, ever since the times of our ancestors, it has been a political necessity to require that help which empowers the Makhzen to defend itself, so that no fears might arise of disaffection and weakness among our subjects and all the faithful, whom may God inspire with love for the "sumna" and religion, and help them to look to the future with the eye of faith; so that they might aspire to unite and to help one another for their good; that they might be eager to submit to the Makhzen, to serve it, to receive its advice, to make haste to succour it by all possible means that the great danger produced by anarchy should be avoided.

It is for this reason that we have laid before you certain points of the present situation of which we are better informed than you, and we have considered the means of deliverance—means that you have not thought of.

We hope that God will continue to guide you in the right path, and that He will open your eyes to the good which we wish for you.

Be, then, ready to defend yourselves by serving us with sincerity and devotion, and in lending us that assistance needed in the present necessities. Encourage one another

to provide us the means of strength to uphold the rights of the true faith giving proof of strenuous effort, ardent desire, noble sentiment, and religious zeal worthy of Islam, for the peril is increasing daily, and the situation is grave indeed.

We also command you to send to us from among your Notables and Chiefs those men who inspire you with confidence, because of their superiority over others, and also because of their religious zeal. You will take counsel together, and you will charge them to represent your opinions to our Shereefian Majesty that they may take place beside those Notables of towns and tribes who are already here. Our intention is to confer with them on the means of exposing this danger—to remedy it, to repel the evil which might result from it, and to quell its menacing waves. Thus they will realize the exact state of affairs, and will know what we have endured and what we will still endure to divert from you all threatening events and causes of fear.

We have addressed the same letter to other tribes, with the object of obtaining the co-operation of all, so as to increase the power of Islam and the sources of that power, and thus deliver our people from the claws and teeth of danger. Should you persist in your thoughtlessness and waywardness, if the zeal of religion no more incites you to prove your eagerness and devotion, we shall have nothing to reproach ourselves with in regard to you, for we have devoted all our efforts to keep you in the right path and to show you the way of salvation. We have made known to you what you ignored, and the universal harm which would result from your disunion. We have fulfilled the duty incumbent upon us of giving you all necessary advice and of summoning you one and all. He who opens the eyes of others cannot reproach himself. We hope that God will give you inspiration of peace and of close unity, that he will help you to discover righteousness and to provide against all contingencies in a satisfactory manner, and that he will surround our Shereefian subjects with his universal blessing and with the perfect favour of his Prophet.

Greeting!

1*st Jumada*, 1323 (*July* 3, 1905).

No. 82.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 2.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that Dr. A. C. Tacquin, a Belgian medical practitioner, who accompanied Count de Buisseret's Mission to Fez last year, left here on the 13th instant for Fez viâ Laraiche. It is reported that he intends to endeavour to obtain a concession for fishing rights on a part of the Morocco coast, and, should he be successful in his mission, he will probably, on his return, make a study of the fisheries on the coast.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 83.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 2.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 23, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Maclean, His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reports that the French steam-yacht "Aigle" arrived at that port from Mazagan on the 19th instant. Her commander, M. Dyé, informed Mr. Maclean that he would be remaining there a few days, when he intended visiting the ports of Fedalla, Rabat, Mehedia, and Laraiche.

It is unlikely that this yacht will be able to carry out her surveying operations during the winter, since, owing to her small tonnage, she will not be able to stand the rough seas which she would be likely, at that time of year, to encounter in these unprotected harbours.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 84.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 2.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 24, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that a brother and two nephews of Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi, with their families, who have hitherto been residing at Morocco city, arrived here yesterday, coming by sea from Mazagan.

It appears that on their arrival at that port his two nephews were immediately arrested and put into prison by order of the Governor, who pretended that he did so in consequence of orders from Muley Hafid, the Viceroy of Morocco city, to that effect.

Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney, however, induced him to release the two men almost immediately, and the whole party were safely embarked on a French steamer which was chartered for the purpose, and came direct to Tangier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 85.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 2.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 24, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I hear on good authority that it is possible that the proposed mole at Tangier, for the construction of which a concession was obtained by a German firm last July, will be built by a French engineering firm, working under contract with the concessionnaires.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 86.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 2.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 26, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that last week a party of Moors boarded a Spanish fishing-craft occupied in tunny fisheries off Ceuta.

This band, who were led by the brother of a noted Moorish brigand called El Valiente, who was arrested and imprisoned here by the Moorish authorities some four months ago, carried off the crew of the fishing-vessel, which consisted of forty men, as well as all their nets and fishing tackle, which was worth between 30*l.* and 40*l.*

The forty members of the crew were released almost immediately they arrived on shore, at a short distance from Ceuta.

The Spanish Minister informs me that upon receipt of the news he lodged a strong protest with Sid Mohammed Torres, who promised his Excellency that he would do all in his power to obtain the arrest of the band, and especially of its leader, the brother of El Valiente.

If the arrest of this man can be accomplished, it is proposed to send both him and his brother to Mogador to be imprisoned there, and thus lessen the possibility of an attempt of rescue from the Tangier prison by members of his family and other partizans who inhabit the Anghera country, at no great distance from Tangier. Meanwhile the Government profess that they are keeping El Valiente imprisoned at Tangier as a bait for other members of his family to make an attempt to rescue him, when the authorities imagine they would be able to make important captures.

M. Llaveria further informed me that the Spanish cruiser "Infanta Isabel," on receipt of the news of this outrage, at once proceeded to the scene, whereupon the nets and fishing tackle were immediately given up.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 87.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 2.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 26, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Abensur, the representative here of Messrs. Mendlessohn and other German banking firms connected with the proposed loan to the Sultan of 500,000*l*., informed me this morning that the negotiations in connection with this loan are again in active progress.

Mr. Abensur told me that he had, during the course of the last two or three days, submitted to Hadj Omar Tazzi, the Finance Minister, at Fez, for his signature, a document in which it is stated that the Moorish Government agree to allow the value of the Government properties, which are to be hypothecated as a guarantee for the due repayment of the loan, to be determined by agents appointed for that purpose by Mr. Abensur, and that they further agree not to dispute the valuation thus arrived at.

He further informed me that he considered it certain that upon the return of this document, duly signed, together with other papers connected with the loan, a preliminary advance would be immediately paid over to the Moorish Government, while the surplus would be paid as soon as Mr. Abensur's valuations had been satisfactorily accomplished.

He also gave me to understand that if, at the end of two years, the term agreed upon for the repayment of the sum advanced, such amount had not been refunded, in order to recover the sum which might, at that time, have not been repaid, properties whose values corresponded to such amount would be sold by the Moorish Government, and the proceeds handed over to the banking firms concerned.

I have also heard on good authority that the French firm of MM. Branschweig et Cie., of Tangier, have privately agreed to lend the Sultan immediately the sum of 80,000*l*., without security, for an unlimited period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 88.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 3.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 27, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 21st instant the Captain of the Port informed the French Legation here that suspicions had been aroused by the movements of a yacht named the "Eider" flying the French flag, and which had, according to her papers, come from Gibraltar. The yacht had not taken up any of the usual anchorages, but had anchored on the eastern side of the bay close to the shores of the district occupied by the Anghera tribes, which in itself seemed a suspicious act, since the coast in this locality is rocky, and consequently dangerous.

The Captain of the Port accordingly requested the permission of the French Chargé d'Affaires to go on board and search the vessel.

This permission was, however, refused, since, by virtue of an arrangement made between the foreign Representatives here and the Moorish authorities, which was reported to your Lordship in Mr. White's despatch No. 31 of the 9th March last, the right of search of vessels suspected of contraband was only to be recognized when such vessel should be detected in the act of landing goods in contraband at some isolated spot on the coast where it would be impossible to give notice of such act to the Consular authorities concerned.

In this case, however, M. de Saint Aulaire informs me that he did not consider that the circumstances of the case justified the authorization by him of a search on board the "Eider," since there was no proof of any actual landing of contraband having taken place. He accordingly sent an official of the French Legation to accompany the port officials on board the yacht, to inform the captain of the

suspicions of the Moorish authorities, and to request him to allow them to satisfy themselves of the absence of contraband on board.

On their arrival on board the party were conducted over the ship, but were not allowed to examine the contents of the hold.

They therefore returned on shore, and the Moorish authorities repeated their representations at the French Legation that they should be authorized to search the yacht. This, however, was refused on the same grounds as before.

On the 25th the Captain of the Port reported that he had received an intimation from the captain of the yacht to the effect that if he wished to examine the contents of the hold he was at liberty to do so, but just as he was putting off to the yacht with this object she steamed out of the bay.

M. de Saint Aulaire tells me that he requested the Captain of the French cruiser stationed in the bay to keep the yacht under close observation during her stay here, and that the Captain had reported to him that no action of a suspicious nature on the part of those on board had been observed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 89.

Sir C. Phipps to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Brussels, September* 30, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 86 of the 23rd instant, inclosing a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier relative to the proceedings of the Belgian yacht "Ville de Bordeaux" off the coast of Morocco, I found, in the course of conversation with M. Van der Elst, that the Belgian Government were unaware that the Belgian Vice-Consul at Dar-al-Baida had in any way been mixed up in them.

M. de Buisseret, the Belgian Minister there, informed me that at the date of his departure, about a fortnight ago, the German Vice-Consul at that port had been discharged in consequence of those proceedings, and that he had been assured by the Morocco authorities that no suspicion was to be attached to the Belgian Vice-Consul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CONSTANTINE PHIPPS.

No. 90.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 4.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 28, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Gummeré, the United States' Minister, has related to me the following incident:—

On the 22nd instant the servant of a Moor, to whom protection had been extended by the United States' Government under Article XVI of the Madrid Convention, 1880, arrived here from Alcazar bearing a message to Mr. Gummeré. Having delivered his message he was promptly imprisoned by the Governor of Tangier.

The Interpreter of the United States' Legation was at once sent to the Sultan's Deputy to point out that for two reasons, according to Mr. Gummeré, the imprisonment of this man without notice to the local American authorities was irregular: firstly, because he was a servant of a Moor enjoying American protection; and secondly, because he had come to Tangier as the bearer of a message to the United States' Minister, and demanding the man's immediate release.

Sid Torres, however, replied that the orders for this man's imprisonment had been received from the Moorish authorities at Alcazar, and that he therefore regretted that he was unable to order his release.

Mr. Gummeré thereupon himself visited Sid Torres, and repeated his demand that the man should be at once released on the grounds above stated. He added that if there was any valid complaint against the man it should be addressed to the American

Legation, who would take the necessary steps. Sid Torres, however, once more categorically refused to entertain Mr. Gummeré's demand; Mr. Gummeré thereupon informed his Excellency that he should immediately report the matter to Ben Sliman at Fez.

The Sultan's Deputy answered, in what Mr. Gummeré considered an insolent manner, that the American Minister was at liberty to take whatever steps appeared to him to be advisable, but that the man would not be released without orders to that effect from the Makhzen. Consequently Mr. Gummeré yesterday dispatched his interpreter to Fez bearing a letter to Ben Sliman, informing him of the facts of the case, and demanding the immediate release of the man thus imprisoned and an apology from the Sultan's Deputy here for, what he considered as, a personal insult offered to himself by that official.

Mr. Gummeré informs me that he is at a loss to know what is the reason of what he describes as the unpardonable insolence of Sid Torres' action, but that he is of opinion that Ben Sliman will at once give him full satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 91.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, October* 1, 1905.

GERMAN loan contract.

My telegram No. 84 of the 19th August last.

The contract for the above has been finally signed on the following conditions:—

It is for the sum of 500,000*l.*, and is to be repaid in two years' time, it may, however, be repaid in six months. The interest is 7½ per cent., and before the first instalment is paid this is to be deducted. The Government lands at Dar-al-Baida and Tangier are to be the security.

No. 92.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 4.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 4, 1905.

PROPOSED loan to the Sultan.

Mr. Abensur, the representative here of Messrs. Mendelssohn, has informed me that the document has been signed in Fez for the loan contract of 500,000*l.* The Government properties at Casablanca and Tangier and any other ports which may be necessary, will be the security. French and German banks will take up the amount in equal shares. The principal is to be paid back at any time within two years, and the banks will withhold from the principal the interest for two years.

No. 93.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 364.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 4, 1905.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Mr. Lister to-day that he had just received a telegram from Morocco to the effect that arrangements had been made for a considerable portion of the proposed German loan to be assigned to French financiers, and that a further small participation would be given to English firms.

M. Rouvier expressed great satisfaction at this solution, which gave an international character to the operation.

He said that he now hoped that the French and German Representatives would be able to leave Fez, and that he supposed that they would be accompanied by their English colleague.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

No. 94.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 367.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 5, 1905.

THE Parisian press is very busy with a report published in last night's edition of the "Temps" of a conversation which its special correspondent at Berlin had had with Prince Bülow in regard to Franco-German relations.

M. de Bülow defended the action of Germany as necessary on account of the persistent efforts of France to ignore her after the Agreement with Great Britain and Spain.

He regarded with satisfaction the understanding recently come to between the two countries, and trusted that, now that the policy of isolating Germany had been abandoned, the same harmony would continue during the Conference.

He declared that he mistrust which had arisen from the action of M. de Tattenbach proceeded from a misunderstanding, and that, as long as her dignity and commercial interests were respected, Germany would assist France in her colonial policy. He considered that the idea of an inevitable war between Great Britain and Germany was ridiculous, and that it was France's duty to calm international ill-feeling.

A double system of alliances, each of a peaceful character, assured the equilibrium of Europe. In addition to these alliances there existed international friendships; nothing could be better on condition that these alliances or understandings were not directed against a third Power. He concluded by expressing a hope that the present relaxation of the tension which existed between the two countries would be the prelude of reciprocal confidence.

The "Matin" of to-day's date publishes a letter which M. Delcassé, whose policy was clearly attacked by the German Chancellor, although his name was never actually mentioned, is stated to have sent to a friend, to the effect that explanations would imply that a defence was necessary; it was better to leave the facts to speak for themselves, and in this instance they were sufficiently eloquent.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

No. 95.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, October* 3, 1905.

MURDER of Mr. Madden at Mazagan. Your Lordship's telegram No. 53 of the 28th September.

I have been very earnestly requested by the Moorish Government not to put forward the demand for the execution of the perpetrators; they represent that such an act at the present time might bring about very grave results in all parts of Morocco, but especially here.

They have, however, consented to the following: imprisonment for life for two of the ringleaders; ten years' imprisonment for two of the others; the boy to receive two years' imprisonment. The instigator is still at large; but they have promised to do all in their power to secure and punish him.

They have promised to recommend His Majesty the Sultan voluntarily to offer 2,000*l.*; this sum to figure as a gratuity and not as an indemnity. May I accept this solution?

The Sultan's position was seriously affected by the execution of the murderer of the late Mr. Cooper three years ago. Only quite recently a Proclamation was issued by the Pretender, in which the action of the Sultan on that occasion was alluded to as one of the greatest crimes committed by His Majesty.

No. 96.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 7.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, October* 3, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 54 of the 29th September.

The text of the Agreement arrived at between France and Germany has been communicated to me by the French Minister here, together with the programme drawn up for the Conference.

The French Minister has been instructed to leave Fez when it may be convenient for him to do so, and he is not necessarily to await the Sultan's acceptance of the programme.

The Moorish Government are already aware of the contents of the programme, and it has produced a not unfavourable impression. In all probability on Saturday next it will be communicated to the Sultan.

No. 97.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 7.)

(Separate. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 7, 1905.

MR. ABENSUR, the agent here for negotiating the German loan, yesterday received, so El Menebhi confidentially informs me, letters from the Moorish Minister of Finance and Count Tattenbach with a request that he should proceed to Berlin at once and there initiate negotiations with Messrs. Mendelssohn for a further loan to the Sultan of 2,000,000*l*. My informant states that Mr. Abensur will leave for Berlin in a few days.

The information given by Menebhi cannot be always relied on, so this statement must be taken with reserve.

No. 98.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 8.)

(Separate. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 8, 1905.

I HAVE been informed by the German Chargé d'Affaires that he forwarded this morning to Count Tattenbach at Fez instructions received by telegram from Berlin to the effect that, since Spain had given her official consent that Algeciras should be the rendezvous of the Conference, the programme agreed upon was to be immediately submitted to the Sultan by him in conjunction with M. Saint-René Taillandier.

I was also informed confidentially by Baron Langwerth that Count Tattenbach had received instructions to wait until the Sultan had accepted the programme before leaving Fez.

No. 99.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 248.)
My Lord, *Fez, September* 27, 1905.

THE negotiations in Paris between Dr. Rosen and M. Revoil appear to have suffered some interruption pending the production of a document considered to be of importance.

This document is the instruction sent by the Makhzen to the Moorish Commissioner at Tangier in regard to the construction by the Compagnie Marocaine of a mole and warehouse at that port.

The French Minister, upon asking the Makhzen for a copy of this letter, was first met with various excuses, and then was handed a copy of a letter, which he was told was practically the same as that sent, it being stated that the original did not exist here.

Not satisfied with this reply, M. Saint-René Taillandier asked for an audience of the Sultan, who promised him that instructions would be sent to Tangier for the production of the document in question, and these instructions go to Tangier to-day.

The letter that was handed to M. Saint-René, purporting to be the instructions to the Commissioner at Tangier, bears date the 10th February, though, as a matter of fact, the original letter was not handed to the agent of the Compagnie Marocaine until the 8th March.

The letter on which the German Minister relies as being an authority to the German Company to undertake the work was dated the 26th February.

Neither of the letters are very explicit, but that regarding the German firm is, I understand, the more so of the two.

In connection with the programme for the Conference the discussion of the question of the mole bears more of an academical character, but it has caused much annoyance to the German Minister, who has used all his endeavours to prevent the copy of the letter in question being given to the French Minister, and he is perhaps somewhat annoyed at seeing doubts cast upon the genuine character of his success in obtaining this contract.

Count Tattenbach was good enough to call upon me, and in a violent and unprovoked manner threw the whole blame upon the French Government for the delay in the negotiations, which, he maintained, was caused by raising this point which, he said, had nothing to do with the main question, and his Excellency imputed to M. Saint-René Taillandier a want of sincerity in maintaining—an assertion which I believe to be true—that he had not supported any French firm towards obtaining any contract.

Whatever the truth may be about the dates or the substance of the letters of the Makhzen to His Majesty's Commissioner at Tangier, the fact remains that in the months of April and May both the French and German Companies were at work making surveys for the harbour works, from which it may be supposed that both were still competitors at that time, and that no contract had then been actually promised.

I have, &c
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 100.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 249.)
My Lord, *Fez, September* 28, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 219 of the 17th August, I have the honour to transmit a Memorandum containing a short abstract of all the reports that have reached me during the summer with regard to the movements of the Pretender, and the steps taken by the Government troops to check his advance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Memorandum of Events on Frontier as reported from the 17*th August to the* 28*th September*, 1905.

AFTER his reverse of the 9th (11th) July, at Inan Saheli, the Pretender installed a small part of his following in Kasbah Ayun Sidi Meluk, and collected another small force at Kasbah Iselwan.

Bu Amama then proceeded to Beni Bu Zeggou, where he has since remained.

During August small expeditions sent by the Pretender punished with little or no resistance certain villages between Ayun Sidi Meluk and Taza, apparently merely

for disciplinary and not political reasons. The main body of the Sultan's troops remained inactive at Dar Bashir-ú-Messaud during August, the rest of the troops being in garrison at Saidah and Oujdah.

During September desultory fighting occurred between the Pretender and some of his people, the Beni Kolal accused of disaffection to him, and between the Makhzen and the Beni Zeggara, formerly partisans of the Pretender.

The success of this latter operation may lead to an increase of the Makhzen's authority in the frontier district south of Oujdah.

It has been persistently rumoured at Fez that the Pretender razed the Kasbah Sidi Meluk before withdrawing the force he had in occupation of that post, but no reliable news has yet been received on that point.

The results of the whole summer's campaign are apparently that the Pretender has failed to drive the Makhzen from the district within the triangle of which Ayun Sidi Meluk, Saida, and Tenlet Sassi form the angles; while, on the other hand, the Makhzen has failed to inflict anything like a damaging blow on the Pretender, or to alienate from him any tribe which has constantly supported him. The parties, in short, remain practically where they were.

So far as may be judged from the scanty information received, the temporary withdrawal of facilities for the transport of troops and munitions through Algeria seems to have had rather a stimulating than a depressing effect on the Moorish authorities.

Fez, September 28, 1905.

No. 101.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 9.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 2, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Beni M'souar and Wad Ras tribes, having seen that the Sultan's M'halla was apparently under the orders of Reisouli, deemed it prudent a few days ago to release his mother, whom they had captured, and sue for peace.

Reisouli, however, insisted upon those responsible for the capture of his mother being given up, and upon refusal to comply with these demands, he yesterday dispatched a mixed force from various tribes, accompanied by a detachment from the M'halla, to destroy the two villages in which she had spent her captivity, and whose inhabitants were responsible for her having been kidnapped.

These operations were carried out almost without the occurrence of any casualties, and those that did occur were the results of disputes over the loot taken from the burnt villages.

During one of these affrays a Moor, named Uld-el-Ftiah, was shot. This man was a noted bad character, and was imprisoned for having been actively concerned in the kidnapping of two Spanish children from near Arzila in 1901. He was one of those whose liberty was obtained by Reisouli in exchange for the release of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley last year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 102.

Mr. Cartwright to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 171.)

My Lord, *Madrid, October* 5, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that rumours have reached Madrid that a considerable amount of agitation exists in the neighbourhood of Melilla among the Moorish tribes, and that somewhat serious disturbances have even occurred there.

The "Imparcial," the leading newspaper of this city, publishes this morning some information which it has received from its correspondent at Melilla, which it may be of interest to report.

The correspondent states that, owing to the disturbed state of the neighbourhood of Melilla, hundreds of Moorish families have already taken, and continue to take, refuge in Spanish territory.

El Roghi has delayed his return to Zeluam, and is at present located on the right bank of the River Muluya, having pillaged the well-to-do Kabyles of Benicular and Bebolu, and having acquired a large amount of plunder in money and kind.

The Moors of Guelaya are anxious to place themselves under Spanish protection, being weary of the extortions to which they have been subjected by the Imperial Government and that of the Pretender.

The greatest misery exists in the Riff country, and, owing to the want of food, highway robberies are frequent, and travellers on the road are habitually plundered, so that commerce is at a standstill.

A riot took place on Sunday, the 1st instant, between refugees in Spanish territory and a band of about forty Arabs, which resulted in serious injury to many persons, and the rioting was only suppressed with some difficulty through the intervention of the Spanish carabineers. The Arabs then sent a deputatiou to General Segura, Governor of Melilla, to complain that they had been assaulted by the refugees on Spanish territory.

The General replied that all those living within his jurisdiction were loyal subjects, and that he would take energetic measures against any persons who might cause conflict with the rebels who might visit the district of Melilla.

The correspondent is of opinion that the presence of this large number of refugees on Spanish territory is a danger to Spain, and may lead to friction between her and the Sultan, and, so far, the unruliness of these refugees has been kept in check only by their fear of what might happen to them if they were expelled from the neighbourhood of Melilla.

The correspondent draws attention to the fact that since the Sultan prohibited the import of money through the ports of Morocco its introduction through Melilla has been increasing, until within the last few days it has attained extraordinary proportions.

Speculators are withdrawing and exporting Spanish money in order to make their payments in Moroccan currency. This is causing much alarm in mercantile circles, and it would be very desirable, in the correspondent's opinion, that a stop should be put to this in the interests of the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FAIRFAX L. CARTWRIGHT.

No. 103.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 369.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 8, 1905.

I THINK it may fairly be said that the principal topics of interest in international politics have been furnished during the last week by the press.

Interesting articles appeared in the "Temps" and the "Débats," on the suggestions of the "Novoye Vremya." The "Petit Parisien," and more especially the "Temps," published accounts of interviews between their correspondents and Prince Bülow, and during the last three days the "Matin" has contained articles by the editor, M. Stephanne Lauzanne, entitled, "The Truth about the Moroccan Affair."

There is no doubt that Prince Bülow's honeyed remarks and self-satisfied optimism did not meet with the response in France which he had presumably anticipated. They have been received with very general indignation throughout the country, and France has shown clearly through the press that she has no intention, after the continuous contumely of the last three months, to submit to the brutal blandishments of Germany's present attitude. The concluding paragraphs of M. Lauzanne's article sum up very accurately the opinion of the intelligent majority of Frenchmen:—

"France and her Government originally believed that Germany desired personal satisfaction, and did not hesitate to sacrifice M. Delcassé. They next believed that Germany desired further diplomatic or commercial satisfaction, and they did not

hesitate to make concessions in regard to Morocco. They never understood that the gist of the question did not lie there, and that M. Delcassé and Morocco were alike mere pretexts. They never saw that what lay at the root of all these complaints and threats was the most daring supposition which could ever be entertained of a free people, namely, that she should give an account of her alliances, of her friendships, and even of her most simple relations. They never realized that even if they hanged M. Delcassé to-morrow, or handed over the whole of Morocco to the Emperor William, Germany would still be prepared to say to France, 'He that is not with me is against me.' They never understood that what the German Colossus wished was to force conquered France to submit to its brutal caresses. They never felt the formidable pressure which Germany to gain her end has brought to bear on this country during the last eight months—financial, through Berlin stockbrokers and Frankfort bankers; diplomatic, through the Ambassador's personal influence in Parliamentary circles; political, through foreign emissaries and unaccredited agents, as in the case of the strange banquet organized in honour of M. de Rosen; and, finally, journalistic pressure on a scale hitherto unknown.

"Notwithstanding all this, Germany has not succeeded, thanks to the glorious campaign of M. Clémenceau in the press, and to the real patriotism of such men as Déroulède, Cochin, and Habert.

"Germany will no doubt begin again if she has not done so already. Her methods may vary, her objects will always remain the same, but her task will daily become more difficult. M. de Bülow complains of the isolation of Germany. He need look no further for its authors than to Bismarck and Moltke, to William II, and Bülow. It is they who have called into being this Empire, which, having for the last twenty-five years threatened Europe, must fatally end by becoming an object of terror and suspicion.

"The Emperor William must surely know better than any other the story of the peasant woman, who, when she left her children alone in the farm, told them if anything happened to cry 'fire,' and not 'thieves.' In the latter case no one would help them, for the robbery would injure no one but themselves, whereas the fire might burn down the whole village.

"Europe dreads the fire which smoulders unceasingly in Berlin, and has formed a chain for its extinction should it blaze into being. That is all."

The interest of the series of articles is no doubt heightened by the supposition that much of the information must have been furnished directly by M. Delcassé.

Many of the statements unfortunately tend to discredit the policy of M. Rouvier; and M. Clémenceau, who, as your Lordship is aware, is a relentless enemy of M. Delcassé, in the "Aurore" of this morning, calls on the President of the Council to refute them.

Copies of the articles in question are inclosed herewith.*

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

No. 104.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 4, 1905.

I HAVE the hqnour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney reports that the state of lawlessness that existed at Mazagan at the time of the murder of Mr. Madden is again prevalent there.

A warehouse belonging to a German subject has been broken into and a horse and a mule were stolen, shots were fired both by the owner of the property and by the robbers but none was hit.

An attempt was also made to break into a warehouse, the property of the British firm of Messrs. R. A. Spinney and Son, but the attention of passers-by having been attracted, the robbers made good their escape.

* Not printed.

Mr. Spinney adds that, as long as the present Governor retains his post, there is no hope of security of life or property, since, although he receives a large sum of money monthly for the guards, these latter are not paid properly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 105.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 4, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th ultimo, Separate, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Neroutsos at Rabat reports that the French steam-yacht "Aigle" arrived at that port on the 30th ultimo.

This yacht had been occupied in surveying the now disused harbour of Fedallah, situated between Dar-al-Baida and Rabat.

Fedallah was the spot chosen for the disembarkation of rifles, &c., from the Belgian vessel "Ville de Bordeaux," as reported in my despatch, Separate, to your Lordship of the 4th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 106.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, October* 6, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference. My telegram No. 98 of the 3rd instant.

Count Tattenbach has proposed to communicate the Franco-German Agreement to the Moorish Government at the same time as the programme for the Conference is presented; the presentation of the programme has therefore been postponed.

The German Minister thinks that the Agreement, mentioning as it does the integrity of the country and the independence of the Sultan, will tend to make the programme more acceptable to His Majesty.

This suggestion has been referred to their respective Governments by the French and German Ministers.

No. 107.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 10, 1905.

MY telegram, Separate, of the 7th instant.

This morning Mr. Isaac Abensur left Tangier for Paris, London, and Berlin. He gave me to understand that when in London he would be seeing Sir E. Cassel; he would also have an interview with Messrs. Mendelssohn when at Berlin.

No. 108.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Lowther.

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1905.

MADDEN murder.

You may accept the solution offered by the Moorish Government and recorded in your telegram No. 98 of the 3rd instant.

No. 109.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 371.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 11, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 369 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to inclose herein, extracted from to-day's edition of "Le Matin," a further article which has been published by M. Lauzanne in connection with the series which appeared under the heading "The truth about the Moroccan affair."*

M. Lauzanne states that it had not been his intention to add another line to what he had already written, but the utterances of the press, which attributed the articles to the inspiration of M. Delcassé, forced him to explain under what circumstances they had been written.

Two of the articles were ready more than three months ago, and the one concerning the meeting of the Cabinet on the 6th June was written on the evening of the 8th.

They were not published at once, in order to avoid causing irritation during the negotiations between M. Rouvier and Germany.

M Lauzanne declares that he had not consulted M. Delcassé in regard to the articles; that his statement concerning the action of England in the event of an attack on France is supported by various English newspapers; and concludes by comparing the German press to a man who purposes to commit a crime and curses the barbarity of the Penal Code.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

No. 110.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 173.)
My Lord, *Madrid, October* 9, 1905.

I CALLED this afternoon on the Prime Minister and the Minister of State on my return from leave of absence, and both gentlemen were desirous of ascertaining whether I could give them any information as to what had passed in Paris during the negotiations between France and Germany respecting the Morocco Conference.

The Prime Minister, Señor Montero Rios, seemed to be much relieved when I told him that I understood from the conversations which I had held with M. Rouvier and M. Révoil in Paris that the negotiations had revolved round the questions which were to be submitted to the Conference, but that no discussions had taken place in regard to details, which were to be left to the deliberations of the Delegates. It was, in short, the programme and not the mode of executing the programme which had occupied the attention of the negotiators in Paris.

Señor Montero Rios expressed some doubts as to whether the consent of the Sultan to the programme and to the locality where the Conference was to meet would be speedily obtained; and that, therefore, fresh delays would be incurred. I admitted that to some extent I shared these doubts, but that in Paris I found that there was little or no uneasiness on this point, and a telegram which had recently arrived from Fez stated that the Sultan had not unfavourably received a communication from the French Minister informing him of the programme and of the selection of Algeciras as the place of meeting.

I mentioned to Señor Montero Rios that there was one point which I ventured to think was of importance, and that was the question of accommodation at Algeciras. It was to my mind most desirable that steps should be taken without delay for securing the necessary accommodation for the large number of Delegates and their assistants who would be present, and the Under-Secretary of State, M. de Ojeda, had told me that the German Chargé d'Affaires had this morning, under instructions from Berlin, spoken to him on the subject, and urged that no time should be lost in securing the only suitable hotel at Algeciras.

* Not printed.

His Excellency said that he had considered this question and recognized its urgency; but that the Powers could rely on the Spanish Government taking timely steps for providing the necessary accommodation, and I understood him to mean that Spain would take upon herself the charge of housing the Conference. As my visit was a brief one, his Excellency being due at a Cabinet Council, I did not pursue the subject, especially as the French Government are, I believe, moving in the matter. Moreover, I did not like to discuss in a hurried interview the delicate question as to whether the Powers would be disposed to accept the hospitality of Spain on so generous a scale as the Prime Minister appeared to desire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 111.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 373.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 12, 1905.

A VIOLENT article against M. Delcassé appeared in the "New York Herald" yesterday, enumerating the various charges which have been made concerning him, and declaring that he could only clear himself of the accusation that he had been guilty of high treason by proving himself to have been criminally incompetent.

This article was reproduced in various French newspapers to-day, and has elicited a reply from M. Delcassé addressed to M. Calmette, and published in to-day's edition of the "Figaro."

M. Delcassé says that he would have regarded the accusation of having revealed a diplomatic secret as ridiculous, had it not received such notice in the "Figaro."

M. Calmette, commenting on this letter, declares that the reply was necessary, as the silence of the ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs appeared to confirm the truth of the accusations made against him.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the article published in the "New York Herald," together with copy of M. Delcassé's letter to M. Calmette.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 112.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 13.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 13, 1905.

I HAVE been informed by Count Saint Aulaire that preparations are being made by M. Saint-René Taillandier for his departure on the 18th instant from Fez.

No. 113.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 244.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October* 8, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation from the leading article of the semi-official "North German Gazette" of to-day's date on Prince Bülow's recent utterances to French newspaper correspondents.

The unfavourable comments which that event has elicited from the pens of English journalists have, as your Lordship can imagine, provoked fierce resentment in the

* Not printed.

columns of the irresponsible German press, from which the inclosed article of the "Cologne Gazette" offers a typical sample. As is its wont in similar circumstances, when other organs of the press are ventilating their opinions on incidents affecting foreign policy, the "North German Gazette" has allowed the first flush of excitement to evaporate before producing its evidently inspired article on the reasons for, and probable effects of, the Imperial Chancellor's words.

In Germany itself Prince Bülow's action seems to have evoked universal approval, where the interviews accorded to the French correspondents are considered to have been the natural and obvious means of acquainting the world with the views of the Imperial Government after the conclusion of the Agreement with France.

In reply to the charge raised in some English newspapers to the effect that Prince Bülow's policy has been directed towards frustrating any possible sort of understanding between England and Russia, the "National Zeitung" asserts that Germany, far from wishing to achieve such results, has long since reckoned on and anticipated a *rapprochement* between the two countries, which, based, as it would be, exclusively on an adjustment of Asiatic difficulties, could in no way disturb German interests and aims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Extract from the "Kölnische Zeitung" of October 6, 1905.

(Translation.)

WE have now another example of the extraordinary eagerness with which a portion of the English press seizes every opportunity for a campaign against Prince Bülow. For this purpose all weapons which come to their hands are good, even those which in ordinary life are looked upon as disgraceful, such as surmises, insinuations, and legends. For instance, the announcement in the "Daily Graphic" that even during the last few days Germany had attempted to upset the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is pure invention. As if it were possible to succeed by any influence in annulling an Agreement of such importance, which, as every one knows, was definitely completed on the 12th August. In all the papers which our London correspondent has noticed in detail, the desire is, moreover, noticeable to draw more from the Imperial Chancellor's words than he ever put into them. The London press writes so much about "New Diplomacy," we think rather that it has discovered a New Journalism, which consists in omitting in its dealings with Germany all those considerations which are generally observed in intercourse with one's fellow-creatures. This will be noted in Germany, as also will be the fact that this newest outbreak is once more directed against an occurrence showing real friendship for France on the part of Germany. If their object were not so plain to see, one would look on England's behaviour as merely childish, when she cries to France, "Beware! We are your friends. Have no dealings with those people!" As to the legends, finally, it is a quite disgraceful proceeding to publish once more the old assertion that the Imperial Government countenanced the outcry against England at the time of the Boer War. At that time it was declared that if the German Government had so wished, they could have suppressed the Boer agitation. The originator of this assertion went to the length of inventing a German Code of Law, which put the press in the power of the Imperial Government and made such action possible. In answer to this, we must point out that in few civilized States is the control of the Government over the press so small as in Germany; the impolitic and foolish Boer agitation, against which the Government was helpless, was extremely disagreeable to them, till at length the German admirers of the Boers saw how out of place was this admiration for their "cousins" in South Africa. Now that matters stand differently, and a press campaign is being carried on against Germany in England, we will not turn round and ask why the English Government do not succeed in influencing at least those papers which are more or less connected with them.

The true solution of the difficulty caused by the present abuse of Germany is that which was formerly applied to the abuse of England. The population must decide that they will not follow the unfriendly course mapped out for them by their press.

No. 114.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, October 11, 1905.*

MOROCCO Conference. My telegram No. 100 of the 6th October.

Yesterday a written text of the programme was communicated to Ben Sliman by M. Saint-René Taillandier, but Count Tattenbach states that he is not authorized to do this by his instructions.

I propose to leave as soon as I can after the departure of the French Minister. M. de Taillandier has informed the Moorish Government that he intends to leave Fez about the 20th instant.

No. 115.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 375.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 14, 1905.*

AFTER the Council of Ministers yesterday, a communication was made through the Agence Havas to the press, to the effect that the accounts which have recently been published in the newspapers in regard to the incidents which occurred at the time of, and especially the details concerning, the Cabinet Council which preceded the resignation of M. Delcassé, are incorrect.

An article by M. Stephanne Lauzanne, copy of which is inclosed herein,* appeared in to-day's edition of "Le Matin," upholding the accuracy of his information, and quoting a statement made at Limoges on Sunday by M. Jaurès to the effect that he had received an identical account from three Ministers.

M. Lauzanne says that the German press has been clamouring for a denial of the disclosures, which every Member of the Government knows to be correct, and that the note which was communicated yesterday to the press should be regarded not as a denial but merely as an act of complaisance.

The communication has called forth articles in most of the leading newspapers, and has been construed by them, as was the letter of M. Delcassé to the editor of the "Figaro," as a proof of the correctness of the opinions which they have respectively expounded on the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 116.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. May to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Gibraltar, October 16, 1905.*

CAPTAIN CROWTHER, R.M.L.I., and Lieutenant Hatton, R.M.L.I., who belonged to a party with life-saving apparatus, &c., sent by land viâ Ceuta to communicate with His Majesty's ship "Assistance," sea communication being impossible, have been captured by brigands on their return journey to Ceuta.

Members of the party were Captain Crowther, Lieutenant Hatton, and eight muleteers, seven of whom were sent to Ceuta to report the capture, while one was retained prisoner with the officers.

I have communicated with His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Tangier, and requested his advice as to what is to be done.

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* Not printed.

No. 117.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, October* 17, 1905.

MOROCCO. Capture of British officers by brigands.

Referring to telegram from Tangier of the 16th October.

Orders will be sent by the Ministry of War, at the request of the Foreign Office, to the Governor of Ceuta, to abstain from any hostile action whatever, and from all attempts to rescue captives by force, pending the steps to be taken at Tangier by the British Legation.

British Chargé d'Affaires will, I presume, give Moorish authorities to understand that they will be held responsible for the safety of the captives and their prompt release. Should they not be successful in the latter respect, which I consider doubtful, I am sure that the Spanish Government would be willing that the Ceuta authorities should negotiate the matter. They have constant relations with the neighbouring tribes, and are in a favourable position for this purpose, having recently procured the release of some Spanish fishing boats and tackle from the same brigands.

I have repeated the above to Tangier.

No. 118.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, October* 17, 1905.

BRITISH officers captured by brigands.

I have received from the British Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, repetition of a telegram addressed by him to the Admiral at Gibraltar, in which he states that, subject to the consent of the Spanish Government being obtained, the Sultan's Deputy is ready to liberate the brigand's brother who is in prison at Tangier, and that this consent has been asked, by telegraph, by the Spanish Minister.

I am ready to afford my support to this request, but I am telegraphing to Mr. Wyldbore Smith to inquire if this is the sum total of the brigand's demands.

No. 119.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 17.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 17, 1905.

I HAVE heard from the Spanish Minister that the Governor of Ceuta has just telegraphed to him that the well-known Moorish brigand this afternoon captured near Ceuta two British officers. They had been engaged in the salvage operations on His Majesty's ship "Assistance" which had stranded in the vicinity of Tetuan.

M. de Llaveria has told me in confidence that the Governor of Ceuta was anxious to rescue the prisoners and had asked leave from his Government to send troops for this purpose.

It is most desirable that they should take no steps involving danger to the officers. I am privately making attempts to discover the place where they are being kept.

I have telegraphed the foregoing to Madrid.

No. 120.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 17.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 17, 1905.

ANGHERA captives. My telegram of yesterday.

Letters from the captive Marines, Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton have reached the Governor of Ceuta to the effect that they are held as hostages for the release of their captor's brother who is in Tangier prison. This has been communicated to me by telegraph by the Governor of Gibraltar.

Sid Torres has given his consent to the immediate release of the prisoner should I make the demand, provided that the Spanish Government, on whose account this man was imprisoned, should raise no objection. A telegram requesting their consent has been dispatched by the Spanish Minister to his Government.

No. 121.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. H. May to Admiralty.—(*Communicated by Admiralty, October* 17.)

(No 412.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gibraltar, October* 17, 1905.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 410, Valiente, the Moorish brigand, declines to release the British officers whom he has made prisoner unless his brother, at present in captivity at Tangier, is given up. The British Legation at Tangier was informed to this effect last night, and I have received a telegram from the Chargé d'Affaires stating that special couriers have been dispatched to Fez to communicate this to Mr. Lowther. They should arrive at Fez on Thursday at mid-day. This morning I had an interview with Mr. White, the Consul at Tangier, who has arrived here on his return from England. I have given him a full account of the case, and he goes back to Tangier to-morrow. Mr. White does not fear that the captives will be subjected to any serious discomfort, but he is apprehensive that the conditions under which Valiente will consent to set them free may be more severe than those at present proposed.

No. 122.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. H. May to Admiralty.—(*Communicated by Admiralty, October* 17.)

(No. 413.)
(Telegraphic.) *Gibraltar, October* 17, 1905.

REFERRING to No. 412. Mr. White left to-day for Tangier.

No. 123.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1905.

IN view of Mr. Smith's telegram of to-day in regard to the capture of two British officers by Moorish brigands, it would be well that you should impress upon the Spanish Government the necessity of avoiding any action which might be likely to endanger the lives of the captives.

No. 124.

Sir B. Boothby to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 13, 1905.

THE Vienna press, as was to be expected from its German sympathies, is loud in denunciation of M. Delcassé for the part which he is supposed, on the strength of the revelations in the "Matin," to have played in planning a new Franco-German war.

The "Neue Freie Presse," which at first ridiculed the idea that England should have lent herself to such a scheme, in yesterday evening's issue, suddenly changes its attitude, probably on inspiration from Berlin, and talks of the "world's right to know" whether M. Delcassé was encouraged by England in his reckless policy. M. Delcassé is compared to M. Ollivier, and is accused of having "criminally abused his position at the helm of State to fatally disturb the peace."

The "Fremdenblatt" says that the revelations of the "Matin" show that M. Delcassé has misjudged the wishes of his country and has misunderstood the danger of the situation which he has provoked. The French nation does not want war, "nor to take a mean revenge on Germany, which would be better suited to the policy of women and Courts of the eighteenth century than to the needs of a great modern nation." "The fate of M. Delcassé and the course of the Morocco crisis show," says the "Fremdenblatt," "that the immense majority of Frenchmen desire peace in the same way that Germany does—a peace free from pin-pricks and pit-falls."

The suspicion that the "revelations" of the "Matin" may be a fabrication, and that M. Delcassé may have been unjustly accused, is not even considered worthy of discussion by the leading daily papers here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BROOKE BOOTHBY.

No. 125.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 179. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, October* 15, 1905.

THE French Ambassador paid me a visit this morning on his return from Paris, and, with reference to the conversation which I had had with M. Rouvier a few days ago, he had been desired by the latter to show me two telegrams which his Excellency had addressed to the French Ambassador in Berlin. M. Rouvier, he continued, had received certain indirect intimations that there were doubts in some quarters whether France and Germany had not arrived at a private arrangement in regard to the Morocco Conference, but the telegrams to M. Bihourd were, he was sure, sufficiently explicit to show that nothing had been agreed upon beyond what had been signed and made public. M. Jules Cambon gave me the telegrams to peruse, and as they have, I believe, been communicated to your Lordship, I need not refer to them in detail.

I told M. Cambon that I had not heard a whisper as to any private arrangement between France and Germany on the Morocco question, but I thanked M. Rouvier and him for showing me the communications with the French Ambassador at Berlin, which certainly would set at rest any doubts, if such existed.

I asked M. Cambon whether, in view of the Sultan's opposition to the Conference at Algeciras, and the approaching departure of the French and British Missions from Fez, he considered it likely that the Conference would assemble. His Excellency replied that he had grave doubts on the subject, and he agreed with the Spanish Premier, who also shared these doubts, that Germany would suffer a moral diplomatic defeat if the Conference fell through. As I did not quite follow this reasoning I did not pursue the point, but I venture to think that, whatever may be the balance of gains and losses in the diplomatic campaign, the condition of Morocco will not improve, and general interests will gravely suffer, unless some steps are taken to introduce European control and assistance, both in the finances and in the police of that country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 126.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. H. May to Admiralty.—(*Communicated by Admiralty, October* 18.)

(No. 415.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gibraltar, October* 17, 1905.

CONTINUING No. 412. Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier has telegraphed since my last inquiring whether the release of Valiente's brother should be demanded subject to consent of Spanish Government. The Deputy of the Sultan consents to this. The permission of the Spanish Government has been requested, by telegraph, by the Spanish Minister. In reply, I have asked the Chargé d'Affaires to make this demand.

No. 127.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, October* 18, 1905.

BRITISH officers captured by brigands.

A Council of Ministers is to be held this afternoon, and I have been asked by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to address a note to his Excellency, requesting the Spanish Government to liberate the Moor in prison at Tangier, which he can submit to the Council.

As I fear that the demands of the brigands might increase with any delay, I have complied with Señor Sánchez Román's request.

No. 128.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, October* 18, 1905.

MOROCCO. Capture of British officers.

Reference my telegram No. 79 of to-day.

I am informed by Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Spanish Minister at Tangier has been instructed, by telegraph, to consent to the Moorish prisoner's release.

I have suggested that the Ceuta authorities should hold the prisoner until the officers are liberated, and that he should be handed over to them for that purpose.

I learn to-day from a telegram from Tangier, in reply to the inquiry (mentioned in my telegram No. 78 of the 17th instant), that no communication has yet been received from the captives or their captor, and that it is not known if the release of the prisoner is the only condition. I was under the impression since the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 79 of the 18th instant, that letters from the captives had been received by the Governor of Ceuta to the effect that, until the prisoner was released from Tangier prison, they would be retained as hostages for him.

No. 129.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir H. Howard.

(No. 92.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1905.

ON the 10th instant I received an *aide-mémoire* from the Dutch Chargé d'Affaires calling my attention to the possibility that one or more Powers of the second class might be invited to nominate officers to serve in the new police force to be established in Morocco, and inquiring whether His Majesty's Government would be disposed to support in principle the appointment of Dutch officers to such posts, should the question be discussed at the forthcoming Conference.

I have replied that it is not possible for His Majesty's Government to commit themselves definitely on this point until it is seen how any such proposal is viewed by the Conference generally.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 130.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. H. May to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, October 19.)

(No. 419.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gibraltar, October* 18, 1905.

MY No. 415 continued. To-day I telegraphed to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Tangier proposing that, to facilitate and expedite the matter, I should send a ship for the conveyance of the brother of Valiente. The Minister has answered as follows:—

"Unless Spanish Government concur, Valiente's brother cannot be set free.

"A telegram was sent yesterday morning to Madrid by the Spanish Minister asking for their consent, but the Spanish Government has not as yet replied. A letter from the Governor of Angera has been received by the Sultan's Deputy stating that the Governor was setting out forthwith for the place where the British officers are imprisoned, with a view to their liberation. He proposes, if necessary, to use force.

"I do not quite share his Excellency's confidence in the Governor's success in this expedition, but consider the result of his action, which will probably not be known till to-morrow, should be awaited."

No. 131.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 19, 1905.

ANGHERA captives. Mr. Wyldbore Smith's telegram, Separate, of the 17th October.

The Governor of Anghera has gone to the village where the captives are confined in order to set them at liberty. The Deputy of the Sultan is confident as to the success of the Governor. Though I do not myself feel so confident, it appears to me advisable not to surrender the brigand's brother until we receive further news; I, therefore, on hearing from the Spanish Minister that he had now been instructed by his Government to authorize the release of the brigand's brother, requested him to await the result of the action of the Governor of Anghera before making his communication to the Sultan's Deputy.

I am requesting the Commander-in-chief in the Atlantic to detail a torpedo-boat or some other of His Majesty's ships to convey to Ceuta a messenger from the Sultan's Deputy bearing a letter to the Governor of Anghera containing instructions to hand the captives over to the ship. If the Governor has been unable to obtain the release of the captives his reply will be brought by the vessel and definite information as to the present position of the case will thus be obtained.

Should the only condition for the liberation of the captives be the release of the brigand's brother, the prisoner can be conveyed to Ceuta in the vessel and the exchange carried out in concert with the Spanish authorities.

I have repeated the foregoing to Madrid.

No. 132.

Commander-in-chief, Atlantic Station, to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, October 19.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Gibraltar, October* 19, 1905.

A TELEGRAM has been received to-day from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier to the effect that the Spanish Government has consented to the release of Valiente's brother, and I have been asked by Chargé d'Affaires to facilitate the

transmission of a letter which it is intended to send to Ceuta for the Governor of Angera, making inquiries concerning the result of the proceedings alluded to in my No. 419. I have sent "Pathfinder" to-night to Tangier for the service referred to, and if it is possible and desirable she will embark the brother of Valiente and take him to Ceuta in order that his exchange with captive officers may be made without delay.

No. 133.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1905.

CAPTURE of British officers.

Pray convey our thanks to the Spanish Government for their prompt and considerate action as reported in your telegram of yesterday.

No. 134.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1905.

ACTION reported in your telegram of to-day is approved.

Employment of force to obtain release of captives might endanger their lives, and you should therefore not authorize it without express instructions.

No. 135.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 251.)
My Lord, *Fez, October* 1, 1905.

THREE days ago the Moorish Government decided to reduce the pay of all branches of the Government service. This measure naturally produced general discontent, especially among the soldiery. Formerly the pay of the foot soldier was 3 reals (about 3¾*d.*) per day. This has by the new regulation been reduced to 2 reals (or 2½*d.*), a sum quite insufficient for their daily needs, especially in view of the fact that prices are now ranging very high owing to recent bad harvests nearly all over the country, and numerous desertions are consequently of daily occurrence.

The Government forces here consist of two small camps of nominally 500 men each, one destined for Oujda and the other for the Tangier district, and a third force of possibly some 300 men, which has been stationed here for some time and is to remain. These camps will doubtless be reduced by half by immediate desertions, and the men will be scattered over the country penniless, but armed and driven to gain a living by robbery.

It is to be expected that desertions will be equally numerous in the other forces at Tangier, Oujda, and elsewhere throughout the country once this new regulation is made known.

The salaries of the Viziers have, it is said, been entirely abolished. This measure will doubtless lead to an extension, if that is possible, of the present corrupt practices and extortions of those officials. They have lately been in receipt of 35 dollars (about 3*l.* 13*s.*) per day.

Other Government officials, such as secretaries, Customs and army officers, have had their salaries reduced by half.

I understand that this measure of a general reduction of salaries was decided upon, on the advice of the Minister of Finance, owing to the absolutely depleted condition of the Treasury.

Protests have been made in individual cases, but a mass meeting of soldiers at the Mosque of Muley Abdullah is to take place shortly.

Since the issue of the order the Moorish Government have negotiated a loan with some German banks, and it is possible, once the immediate stress of the financial situation has passed, that wiser counsels may prevail and that the order will be cancelled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 136.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 252. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Fez, October* 2, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 246, Confidential, of the 19th ultimo, I understand from my French colleague that his Government have informed him that they do not desire him to take any action with regard to the letter to the tribes inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch.

The letter has neither produced the necessary funds nor incited the people against he French. It is consequently considered advisable to leave it alone, though the possession of the text of the document may no doubt serve its purpose later on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 137.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 19. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 6, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Memorandum which I have drawn up on the shipping at the port of Tangier during the first six months of the present year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Memorandum on the Shipping at Tangier during the first Six Months of 1905.

SHIPPING at Tangier during the first six months of this year, as the accompanying figures show, compares favourably with the Returns of the previous two years. The actual number of entries is in excess of half the number for the year 1904, while the tonnage Returns show a considerably larger proportion during the period under review, which is a satisfactory feature, showing as it does that the various Shipping Companies concerned consider that the trade at this port warrants the sending of larger steamers than formerly.

Year.	No. of Vessels.		Total.	
	Steam.	Sailing.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1903..	889	257	1,146	436,804
1904..	1,082	210	1,292	595,158
First half of 1905 ..	600	89	689	381,025

The arrangements for embarking, disembarking, and storing of cargo are at present unsatisfactory, but the proposed construction of a mole and warehouses and an improved lighter service would quickly remedy these defects.

Although, on account of the necessary expense, the proposed mole will not be, at any rate at present, carried far enough out to allow of vessels of the tonnage of even the smaller class of cargo-boats which visit Tangier coming alongside, yet, when a mole with storehouses erected thereon shall be in existence, the distance between the vessels and the storehouses will be greatly decreased, and the consequent saving of time be considerable.

The following Table shows the proportion of the shipping obtained by the various nations during the last five and a-half years:—

Nationaliiy.	First Half of 1905.		1904.		Average Five Years (1900–1904).		Remarks.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
British ..	38	35½	39	38	28½	34½	More or less stationary.
Spanish ..	34½	16½	41½	25¾	53½	28½	Considerable decrease, especially in tonnage.
French ..	15	26¾	8¼	15	7½	13½	Almost double the shipping.
German ..	5	14	4½	11½	4½	12	Slight decrease in tonnage.
Italian ..	1½	2	2	2¾	1¼	4¼	Slight decrease in both shipping and tonnage.
Austrian ..	1½	1¾	2¼	3¼	1¼	3½	Slight decrease in shipping, and considerable in tonnage.
Others ..	4½	3½	2½	3¾	3½	3¾	

British.—From the Tables it will be seen that, in comparison with that of 1904, British shipping during the past six months of the present year has remained more or less stationary, although considerably in excess of the average obtained during the years 1900–1904 inclusive.

There are four lines of steamers which regularly serve Tangier. Two of these lines maintain a service of steamers running regularly between Tangier and Gibraltar three times a-week, and a third line runs a weekly service of steamers between London and Tangier, returning viâ the coast ports, Madeira, and the Canary Islands, and the fourth line maintains a regular bimonthly service between Liverpool, Tangier, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria. These last-mentioned steamers rarely call at Tangier on the homeward journey.

Spanish.—Spanish shipping appears to be steadily decreasing. This is probably to be accounted for by the increasing competition of foreign lines.

There are three principal Spanish Companies whose steamers visit Tangier, the most important being a subsidized mail service between Cadiz, Tangier, Algeciras, and Gibraltar. The vessels of this Company call at Tangier six times a-week on their way to and from Cadiz and Gibraltar. A second service plies between Genoa, Marseilles, Barcelona, the Morocco coast, and the Canaries; during the first six months of this year the steamers belonging to this line have only been visiting Tangier about once a-month. A third line runs steamers between Seville, Cadiz, and the Morocco ports, but these steamers have lately been calling very irregularly, owing to want of sufficient cargo.

French.—Shipping under the French flag has, however, been steadily on the increase.

There are two lines of weekly services between Marseilles and Tangier. The steamers of one of these two lines proceed from Tangier to the Algerian ports, returning viâ Tangier to Marseilles, whilst the vessels of the other Company visit the western coast ports, touching again at Tangier on the return voyage to Marseilles.

In July last year a third line of steamers commenced visiting Tangier on the voyage between Marseilles and Buenos Ayres, but this line has now ceased its connection with this port owing to lack of sufficient cargo to make it worth their while.

A fourth line, having its head-quarters at Havre, sends its steamers at irregular intervals to Tangier on their way to Marseilles.

German.—German shipping at Tangier is at present represented by two regular lines.

The most important of these two lines provides a regular bimonthly service between Hamburg, Antwerp, Gibralter, Tangier, and the coast ports.

The second line of steamers touch at Tangier once a-month on their outward journey between Bremen, Marseilles, Naples, and the East African ports. The steamers of this line are of far heavier tonnage than the other visiting Tangier.

A daily return service between Tangier and Gibraltar is said to be in contemplation. This service would be furnished by some of the smaller vessels belonging to the Hamburg-American line.

Italian.—A regular bimonthly service of Italian steamers was instituted last year.

The itinerary of these steamers is Genoa, Marseilles, Barcelona, Gibraltar, Tangier, and the Moorish coast ports.

Austrian.—The Austrian flag is represented by a bimonthly line of steamers plying between Fiume, Trieste, Tangier, the Algerian ports, and Malta.

RETURN of all Shipping which entered the Port of Tangier during the Year 1904 and the First Half of 1905.

Nationality.	Years.	Steam.		Sailing.		Total.	
		No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	1904	502	225,747	4	293	506	226,040
	1905	262	134,866	..	..	262	134,866
Spanish ..	1904	347	149,559	190	4,696	537	154,255
	1905	164	60,193	73	2,260	237	62,453
French	1904	105	89,009	1	68	106	89,077
	1905	103	101,567	..	..	103	101,567
German ..	1904	59	69,390	..	..	59	69,390
	1905	35	53,681	..	..	35	53,681
Austro-Hungarian	1904	25	19,054	..	..	25	19,054
	1905	10	6,998	..	..	10	6,998
Italian	1904	27	16,664	..	..	27	16,664
	1905	11	7,749	..	..	11	7,749
Portuguese	1904	..	..	5	320	5	320
	1905	..	..	5	560	5	560
Dutch	1904	9	6,082	..	..	9	6,082
	1905	4	4,889	..	..	4	4,889
Other nationalities	1904	8	15,175	10	1,101	18	16,276
	1905	11	7,768	11	484	22	8,272
Total ..	1904	1,082	590,680	210	6,478	1,292	597,158
	1905	600	377,721	89	3,304	689	381,025

No. 138.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 20.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 7, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have had a conversation with M. de Saint-Aulaire, the French Chargé d'Affaires here, on the subject of the claims of the two rival French and German Companies with reference to the construction of the proposed mole and warehouses at Tangier.

Count Saint-Aulaire showed me a copy of a letter, dated the 8th March, 1905, addressed by Sheikh Tazzi, the Minister of Finance, to Ben Said, who was at that time the Sultan's Acting Commissioner here, on the subject of the proposed improvement of the port of Tangier by the construction of a mole and warehouses.

In this letter the Sheikh Tazzi informs Ben Said that a Frenchman named M. Favarez, representing the Compagnie Marocaine, had made certain proposals to the Maghzen with reference to the construction of such a mole. The Acting Commissioner is instructed to communicate with the representatives of this French Company at

Tangier and to inform them that their suggestion that they should be permitted to study the question and draw up a plan for such a construction had been favourably received. To this end, therefore, the Maghzen instructed Ben Said to appoint certain native officials who, in company with the engineer to be named by the French firm, were to study the question. Upon the completion of their studies, the French Company were to draw up a report and prepare an estimate for the proposed construction, which Ben Said was instructed to transmit to Fez, together with his own criticisms thereon.

In this letter no mention is made of any further communication which the Moorish Government might make to the French Company as to their acceptance or refusal of the proposals submitted for their consideration.

In some Minutes, however, a copy of which Count Saint-Aulaire showed me, dated the 8th to the 10th February, 1905, from which the above-mentioned letter had evidently been drafted, it is distinctly stated that the Maghzen, after considering their proposals, would communicate further with the French Company.

Count Saint-Aulaire further showed me a copy of a letter, dated the 26th March, 1905, addressed by the Maghzen to the German Legation. This letter was in reply to one written by M. von Kühlman, who was at that time the German Chargé d'Affaires, in which he had pointed out the inconveniences suffered by commercial houses here, owing to the absence of a mole and warehouses at the port of Tangier. M. von Kühlman had further transmitted a suggestion made by the German firm of Messrs. Borgeaud Reutmann and Company that they should be allowed to prepare a plan for constructing a mole and warehouses. In this letter the Maghzen authorized the preparation of two alternative proposals by a German engineer to be employed by the firm in question, with the co-operation of some native officials. These alternative plans, with the corresponding estimated cost of their construction, were to be submitted to the Maghzen who stated that, after due consideration thereof, they would again communicate with the Company.

Count Saint-Aulaire gives me to understand that the French Company contest the granting of the Concession to the German firm to construct the mole, on the following grounds: firstly, that permission to prepare plans for the construction of a mole and warehouses was granted to them by the Maghzen prior to that granted to the German firm; secondly, that they never received any intimation that the plans submitted by them to the Moorish Government had been found unacceptable until they heard that a Concession for the works proposed had been granted to their German rivals; thirdly, that the very fact of their having been granted permission to prepare plans would seem to defeat the assertion of the German Legation here that the Sultan had promised the Concession for the construction of a mole at Tangier to a German firm in part recognition of the fact that the German Government had waived their demand for the execution of the murderers of the German subject, Herr Genthe, last year; and, fourthly, that the Concession was granted to the German firm subsequent to the Franco-German Agreement of the 8th July, thus violating the spirit of that Agreement, since the French Government had never ceased to hold that, as a direct and immediate consequence of that Agreement, it was necessary for the Representatives of the two countries at Fez, charged with a common mission by virtue of that accord, to abstain from all private negotiations at the Shereefian Court.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 139.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 20.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 9, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the state of affairs in this neighbourhood remains much the same as that reported in my despatch, Separate, of the 2nd instant. Reisouli has been sending out small punitive expeditions to destroy villages whose inhabitants have displayed signs of discontent at his powers of jurisdiction over them.

These expeditions have on every occasion been supported by troops from the Sultan's M'halla, and this fact has caused considerable discontent in the rival tribe

of Anghera, since it would seem to show that the Maghzen is determined to support Reisouli.

The Spanish Minister informed me yesterday that he had just received a telegram from Ceuta, containing news of the murder of Sid Abdselam Saïd, Governor of the district contiguous to the Ceuta territory, and of his son. This Kaïd, who was generally respected, had governed this district for the last twenty years, and had always been considered as a loyal partizan of the Maghzen.

M. de Llaveria said that he had no information as to the motive for this crime, but I hear that it is generally supposed here to have been the outcome of some dispute with some bad characters who infest that district.

M. de Saint-Aulaire tells me that some ten days ago, during the course of one of his punitive expeditions, Reisouli's men captured three Algerian subjects resident in the Gharbia district; these men, however, obtained their release on payment of a sum amounting to about 400 dollars apiece. M. de Saint-Aulaire said that he was inquiring into the facts of the case, but I did not gather that the French authorities had, as yet, taken any action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 140.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 21. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 12, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Baron Langwerth, the German Chargé d'Affaires here, tells me that the German firm of Borgeaud, Reutermann, and Co., who obtained a concession from the Moorish Government in July last to construct a mole and warehouses at this port, will commence building operations very shortly.

The German Chargé d'Affaires was good enough to lend me photographs of the proposed construction, copies of which I have had made, and which I have the honour to inclose herewith.*

From these photographs it will be seen that the proposed construction is to consist of a curved mole measuring 330 metres in length, with a width of 17 metres, which will inclose a sort of basin, the depth of which, however, will not permit of vessels, even of the tonnage of the small steamers plying between Tangier and Gibraltar, entering and coming alongside the mole.

A considerable extent of the foreshore is to be filled in, and on the land thus redeemed a warehouse will be erected with cranes, &c., in order to facilitate the landing of merchandize from lighters.

It will thus be seen that the benefits to be derived from this mole will be of a purely commercial character, and will not assist the passenger traffic to any great extent.

I understand that the constructing firm will be responsible for five years for the maintenance of the mole in good repair, while, if any structural defect should occur within the first twenty years after the completion of the works, the firm agree to repair the same.

The total cost of construction, &c., is to amount to about 76,000*l.*, and I am given to understand that the Moorish Government agree to pay off this sum in three annual instalments each representing one-third of the total, the first instalment to fall due one year after the works shall have been handed over to the Moorish Government.

The concessionnaires calculate that the receipts will increase 20 per cent. within five years after the construction is in use, and they estimate that the initial outlay on the undertaking will be liquidated in about ten years time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

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* Not printed.

No. 141.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 20.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 20, 1905.

ANGHERA captives: My telegram, Separate, of yesterday's date.

The Secretary of the Sultan's Deputy proceeded last night to Ceuta in His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder," but was unable to obtain the unconditional surrender of the captives, he accordingly returned here this afternoon in the same vessel.

He states, however, that the brigands have engaged to set the captives at liberty if their brother, who is at present in Tangier prison, and two other Moors in prison at Tetuan are released and delivered to them in exchange.

The Sultan's Deputy has, therefore, now been informed by the Spanish Minister that his Government consents to the release of the brigand's brother. His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" has left to-night for Tetuan, conveying the Secretary of the Sultan's Deputy and the brigand's brother, and also Mr. Bristow to represent this Legation, and, if necessary, to act as interpreter. After the two Tetuan prisoners have been embarked, His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" will proceed to Ceuta, and the exchange will be effected on the neutral ground there. To-morrow will, I trust, see the captives free.

I learn from the Spanish Minister that he has received a telegram from the Governor of Ceuta, saying that he preferred to take no part in carrying out the exchange of the prisoners for the captives. The Spanish Minister is, however, telegraphing to the Governor on the subject in reply. I have therefore, in acquainting the Captain of the "Pathfinder" with the above, requested him, should the Spanish Governor change his mind on this point, and express a desire to take part in the proceedings, to act in concert with that official.

No. 142.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 180.)
My Lord, *Madrid, October* 17, 1905.

MR. WYLDBORE SMITH was good enough to repeat to me the telegram which he dispatched to your Lordship yesterday reporting the information which the Spanish Minister at Tangier had communicated to him regarding the capture of two British officers by a Moorish brigand. As it appeared from the above-mentioned telegram that the Governor of Ceuta had applied for permission to employ force for the rescue of the captives, I paid a visit to the Ministry of State, where I found the Under-Secretary, M. de Ojeda, and I asked if he would kindly communicate with the Ministry of War, and request that the Governor of Ceuta should be instructed to abstain from all hostile demonstrations or action until we were informed of the results of the steps which the British Legation might take in the matter. M. de Ojeda at once dispatched a message to the above effect to the Ministry of War, under whose orders the Governor of Ceuta is placed. M. de Ojeda agreed with me that any hostile action at this juncture would very probably endanger the lives of the captives, or lead to their removal to some inaccessible parts of the Riff district with which communication would be exceedingly difficult.

Presumably Mr. Wyldbore Smith will have informed the Sultan's Deputy of the incident, and, while holding, as is usual in such cases, the Moorish Government responsible for the safety of the captives, has instigated the local authorities to take such steps as the local circumstances demand for the speedy delivery of the two officers. Should the action of the Moorish Government fail, or be dilatory, M. de Ojeda informed me that he was sure that the Spanish Government would be happy to move the authorities at Ceuta to endeavour to procure the liberation of the captives by pacific means. Valiente, the brigand who effected the capture, is well known to the Spanish authorities, and he recently captured some Spanish fishing-boats and tackle which he subsequently surrendered. Owing to the close and constant intercourse between Ceuta and the neighbouring tribes, I venture to think that the good offices of the Spanish authorities could be very advantageously solicited.

The Spanish journal "El Liberal" states that the capture occurred at a place

called Castillejos; that Valiente had only six men with him, while the officers had an escort of twenty-one Moorish soldiers; and that Valiente is willing to surrender his captives if his brother is released from prison at Tangier. This information, the journal states, is derived from a Spanish muleteer, named Ildefonso Gomez, who was with the party, but who was permitted to depart unharmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 143.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, October* 16, 1905.

MY telegram No. 100 of the 6th October.

The terms of the official note of Programme of Conference have now been adopted by the French and German Ministers. They have omitted the Agreement of the 8th July. After the presentation of these notes to-day, explanations will be given to the Sultan by the Ministers of both Powers at audiences to be granted on the 18th instant. I shall leave Fez soon after the 29th instant, the date on which the French Minister intends to depart.

No. 144.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, October* 19, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference.

Sid-ben-Sliman has written to M. Saint-René Taillandier, and presumably also to Count Tattenbach, accepting the Conference on behalf of the Sultan.

I am transmitting to your Lordship by post the text of this note, the terms of which are quite satisfactory.

His Majesty has consented that the meeting place of the Conference shall be Algeciras.

No. 145.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 22.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Taugier, October* 22, 1905.

ANGHERA captives. My telegram of the 20th instant.

To-day's expedition of the "Pathfinder" failed, the brigands having absolutely refused to bring the officers down to the beach and set them free unless the prisoner Valiente were first put on shore and allowed to reach his house situated some miles inland. The number of brigands appeared to exceed 200. The danger of treachery was obvious, and the Moorish officials on board also advised that the brigands' demands should not be complied with.

It was at F'nidak that the above events took place, Commander Hickley having decided to go there rather than to Ceuta, as he learnt that it had been selected as the place for effecting the exchange. F'nidak is situated about seven miles west of Ceuta on the coast. His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" returned to Tangier to-night.

I have had an interview with Sid Torres and other Moorish officials who were in consultation with him, and they suggested that the Shereef of Wazan should be asked to act as intermediary. This was the only course they could think of except the use of force, to which I refused to agree.

I accordingly proceeded to visit the Shereef. He considered it unlikely that the neutral ground near Ceuta would be accepted by the brigands as the place for the exchange to be effected, and it was agreed that he should leave for F'nidak to-morrow

morning on His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder." Before the vessel starts I will see M. de Llaveria and explain matters.

The Moorish officials are willing to pay a ransom, if necessary, and have authorized Commander Hickley to pay any sum up to 15,000 or 20,000 dollars, undertaking to refund it at once.

I have telegraphed the above to Madrid.

No. 146.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 23.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 12, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform you that Baron Langwerth tells me that the titles of the rival French and German Companies to construct a mole in the port of Tangier have been duly examined in Paris, and that it has been decided that the titles of the German Company are superior to those of the French.

In accordance with this decision, therefore, so Baron Langwerth informs me, the German Company will at once proceed with the execution of the works ordered by the Maghzen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 147.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 23.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 14, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida reports that he hears that the Government has met with moderate success in the collection of taxes in the district of Dukalla, Abda, and in those situated between Marrakesh and the Atlas Mountains.

There has been a small disturbance of a local character in the district which lies between Sallee and Mehedia, an old disused port at the mouth of the Seboo River. This seems to have been due to the presence of a party of Frenchmen under a M. Samné, who have been attempting to establish a store depôt at Mehedia.

These pioneers, in order to gain the goodwill and confidence of the tribe in whose districts they had established their store, gave away large quantities of merchandize. This generosity on the part of the Frenchmen, however, aroused the jealousy of the surrounding tribes, who attacked the recipients of this French bounty.

Mr. Maclean adds that throughout his Consular district the poor people are suffering greatly from hunger, and consequently have frequently to resort to petty thieving in order to obtain food.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 148.

Mr. Wyldbore Smith to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 23.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 14, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Separate, of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Llaveria has informed me that on the 9th instant the Governor of Ceuta gave notice to the surrounding tribes that he intended to destroy some old Moorish ruins which were situated in the neutral ground between Spanish and Moorish territory in the vicinity of Ceuta.

These ruins were the scene of the murder of Kaïd Abdslam Saïdi, reported in my above-mentioned despatch, and, so M. Llaveria confidentially informed me, an excuse for their destruction had long been sought for by the Spanish authorities, since they furnished a place of concealment for bad characters in close proximity to the fortress of Ceuta.

The murder of this Kaïd consequently provided the sought-for excuse, and the ruins were therefore blown up by a party of Spanish engineers on the afternoon of the 9th instant.

This deed has, I hear, occasioned some feeling among the Anghera tribesmen, who have now met to consider what line of action they will adopt in consequence thereof.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WYLDBORE SMITH.

No. 149.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 23.)

(No. 248.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October* 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translations of extracts from the leading German newspapers on the recent disclosures of the "Matin," regarding the events which preceded and caused the resignation of M. Delcassé from the French Foreign Office.*

The statement concerning Great Britain's supposed offer of armed support to France against Germany has evoked expressions of keen resentment in the press, who are almost unanimous in clamouring for an official denial of the allegations set forth in the "Matin."

So far the "North German Gazette" has restricted itself to a reproduction of the French articles, but I have reason to hope that within the next few days a statement will be published of an official character in its columns to the effect that the Imperial Government are disposed to attach no credence to the aggressive anti-German policy which is being attributed to British and French statesmen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 150.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 23.)

(No. 249.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October* 16, 1905.

IN my immediately preceding despatch I had the honour to foreshadow an article in the semi-official "North German Gazette" which would reflect the views held by the Imperial Government concerning the statement in the "Matin" that England had offered armed support to France against Germany. This article, précis of which I have the honour to inclose, has now appeared, and will, I trust, by its reasonable review of the situation, exercise a calming effect on the public mind as well as on the unofficial press.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Précis of an Article in the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of October 15, 1905.

AFTER blaming those who were dissatisfied with the Franco-German understanding for causing so great a sensation, the "Norddeutsche" declares that the influential circles in France had nothing to do with the revelations of the "Matin." It proceeds:—

* Not printed.

"Reuter's bureau has meanwhile announced, in contradiction to the 'Matin's' assertions, that Germany had been informed by Great Britain that there was never a question of an offer of assistance to France by England, that France never asked for such assistance, nor was it ever offered by England. We are in a position to state that the English Government spontaneously caused a communication of this character to be sent here, and that this communication was accepted on the German side in the same straightforward spirit in which it was given. An incident in the diplomatic relations between England and Germany has not been produced by the assertions of the 'Matin'; but, on the other hand, this is a case of a communication characterized by the English Government as confidential, which, in the view of the London Government, was not intended for publication. We therefore refrain from further discussion of this communication; and the only further statement which we should particularly desire to make is that all assertions according to which the German Government had demanded explanations from the English or from the French Government in regard to the assertions of Paris journals are incorrect. A step of that nature would not, in view of the form in which these assertions were made, have been in accordance with diplomatic courtesy. Nor would it accord with the straightforward sentiments with which we willingly regard the intentions of French and English statesmen. In the larger circles of the German people the incident has been received with tranquillity; and the 'Tribuna' of Rome is quite correct when it asserts that the announcements by English correspondents of hatred against England in Germany are exaggerations. On the contrary, the German people and press have shown great calmness."

No. 151.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 23.)

(No. 252. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October* 20, 1905.

IN an interview with Baron von Richthofen on the 17th instant, I expressed the hope that the excitement in the Press, which had been caused by the revelations in the "Matin," was now beginning to subside, as would no doubt be the case after the publication of the article in the "North German Gazette" of the 15th instant, to which I had the honour to call your Lordship's attention by my despatch No. 249 of the 16th instant.

I told Baron von Richthofen that I had recently had a conversation with Dr. Rosen, who had expressed the opinion that it would be very desirable that some person in authority in England should take an opportunity of publicly denying the report that England had offered assistance to France in the event of a war breaking out between her and Germany. I said that I saw no necessity for an English Statesman denying a statement which nobody in England believed, and which the German Government, after your Lordship's conversation with Count Metternich in June last, knew to be false.

Baron von Richthofen said that the German Government had loyally accepted the assurances which your Lordship had given to Count Metternich in June, and to which Sir T. Sanderson had referred in a recent conversation with Count Metternich. This fact had now been published by the "North German Gazette," and it would no doubt have the effect of calming the excitement caused by the Delcassé revelations. On my expressing a doubt as to whether M. Delcassé was the author of the revelations in the "Matin," Baron von Richthofen said that it was possible that M. Delcassé may not have been responsible for their publication, but that there could be very little doubt that the information contained in them came from him.

I went on to say that, although I hoped that this particular question might be considered as closed, there still existed in both countries an amount of mutual suspicion and distrust which was greatly to be regretted, and which was perhaps more difficult to deal with than a definite quarrel, which would admit of explanation. I had conversed with several of my German friends on the relations between our two countries. Individually they did not share the belief, which was very general in Germany, that England wished for a war and was prepared to attack her; but when I observed that in my country a great many people believed that Germany wished to attack England, they merely laughed and wondered how it was possible for any one to entertain so preposterous an idea. Now, the fear that was felt in England as to the intentions of

Germany, although I certainly did not share it myself, was no more preposterous or ridiculous than the fear felt in Germany as to the intentions of England. It was evident that a war between the two countries would be a great calamity for both, and I did not see how it could possibly bring advantage to either.

Baron von Richthofen said that he entirely agreed with me. He looked upon a war between our two countries as entirely out of the question. He admitted the existence of suspicion and distrust on both sides, which he would gladly see removed, and which he hoped would calm down in time, and he considered that it was fortunate that there was no question pending between the two countries which was likely to produce any serious complication, as the present temper of public opinion on both sides would make it very difficult to come to an arrangement if any serious difference of opinion should arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 152.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 181.)
My Lord, *Madrid, October 19, 1905.*

THE Minister of State requested me to call upon him yesterday, and informed me that he would be glad if I would address him a note in regard to the release of the Moor at present in prison at Tangier, and who was imprisoned at the request of the Spanish authorities. His Excellency said that he wished to lay my note before a meeting of the Cabinet which was to be held that afternoon, and it would facilitate matters if he had some documents in his hands.

As it is doubtless desirable to hasten the liberation of the British officers, I had no hesitation in complying with the request of Señor Sanchez Roman, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of the note which I addressed to his Excellency.

It seemed to me that it would be prudent that the man should be transferred to the care of the authorities at Ceuta until an arrangement had been made with the captor for the liberation of the British officers. I have been hitherto unable to ascertain whether the brigand has expressed his readiness to set the officers at liberty if a similar measure is taken in regard to his relative, as Mr. White informed me by telegraph yesterday that no communication had been received either from the captives or their captor. It is possible, I fear, that he may demand other conditions, either on his own initiative or prompted by other tribes who may have friends in prison or who may wish to increase the terms.

Señor Sanchez Roman informed me, later yesterday afternoon, by telephone, that instructions had been sent by telegraph to the Spanish Minister to give his consent to the release of the Moorish prisoner, and I trust, therefore, that he will shortly be handed over to the Ceuta authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 152.

Sir A. Nicolson to Señor Roman.

Sir, *Madrid, October 18, 1905.*

I HAVE had the honour of verbally informing your Excellency of the capture of two British officers by a Moorish brigand in the vicinity of Ceuta, as they were returning under a Moorish escort from the salvage operations which are being undertaken in consequence of the stranding of one of His Majesty's ships on the Moorish coast. From information which has reached me, it would appear that the brigand in question is ready to release the two officers, provided his brother, at present imprisoned at Tangier, is set at liberty. This latter individual was, I understand, imprisoned at the request of the Spanish authorities, and his liberation is, therefore, dependant on the consent of the Spanish Government to that step.

I trust that your Excellency will allow me to appeal to the good-will and well-known friendship of the Spanish Government to accede to a step which I trust will

lead to the speedy liberation of the two British officers from captivity, and thereby free both my Government and the relatives of the two gentlemen from any anxiety on their account.

I know that I can lay this request before your Excellency and the Cabinet of His Majesty in perfect confidence that all due and humane consideration will be accorded to it.

It has come to my knowledge that the Governor of Ceuta, actuated by a natural and generous motive, desired to take measures to rescue from the hands of the bandits the two British officers who were captured in close vicinity to his garrison, and I am sure that my Government will appreciate the ready and active assistance which General Bernal was desirous of affording. At the same time your Excellency will, I trust, permit me to observe that the employment of force at this juncture might gravely endanger the lives of the captives or lead to their hasty removal to some inaccessible place in the mountains, with which communication would be exceedingly difficult. I would therefore beg leave to lay before your Excellency the request which I have already mentioned in this note, and express the hope that the Spanish Government will send instructions by telegraph to the Spanish Representative at Tangier to consent to the release of the Moor imprisoned at that place. Your Excellency will doubtless, should the Spanish Government, as I have every reason to hope, agree to my request, give directions that the imprisoned man be transferred to the authorities at Ceuta, so that he may be set at liberty as soon as the British officers are liberated.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 153.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, October 19, 1905.*

ANGHERA captives. Mr. Wyldbore Smith's telegram of the 16th instant.

Sid-ben-Sliman has promised me that he will send a letter to-morrow to Sid Torres at Tangier, granting him full powers to agree to the terms the brigands may demand, and generally to treat with them.

No. 154.

Commander-in-chief, Atlantic Station, to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Gibraltar, October 22, 1905.*

THE two marine officers referred to in previous telegrams, Captain Crowther, R.M.L.I., and Lieutenant Hatton, R.M.L.I., have been liberated. A ransom of 200,000 dollars was at first demanded, but Valiente finally, after considerable discussion, agreed to accept ten rifles with 10,000 rounds of ammunition, foregoing all claim to a sum of money. In exchange five prisoners, including Valiente's brother, were released.

No. 155.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October 23, 1905.*

ANGHERA captives.

The Admiral Commander-in-chief in the Atlantic has sent me the following telegram. I should be glad to receive your Lordship's instructions as to whether I am to present the claims put forward therein to the Moorish Government:—

"The sum of 300*l.* 5*s.* is claimed against the Moorish Government on account of the capture of the two marine officers. Details as follows: 29*l.* public money which was taken from Captain Crowther; 187*l.* 5*s.*, being the cost of 140 tons of coal which was used by His Majesty's ship 'Pathfinder'; 35*l.* 5*s.* and 48*l.* 15*s.*, being the price of the ten rifles and 10,000 cartridges respectively."

No. 156.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 23.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 23, 1905.

THE feeling is prevalent here that, as the captives are now out of danger, severe punishment should be inflicted on the Valientes and their party. M. de Llaveria and Count St. Aulaire, whom I have seen, are both personally in favour of making demands for the chastisement of the brigands. I am informed by the former that he is at present in communication with the Spanish Government in respect to this question.

Would your Lordship desire me to put forward such a demand? The Moorish Government officials here appear to be willing to take action in the matter.

I have seen the Sultan's Deputy, and have unofficially drawn his attention to the way in which the escort of the two marine officers behaved. I informed him that, when I was in possession of further particulars, I should again communicate with him on this subject.

No. 157.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 23, 1905.

CAPTURE of Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton.

You should demand that the brigands may be punished, and urge that such acts of lawlessness should be prevented by the adoption of more effective precautions.

No. 158.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 24.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 24, 1905.

I AM forwarding your Lordship's telegram No. 57 of the 23rd instant to His Majesty's Minister at Fez, as Sid Torres, whom I saw in reference to the punishment of the brigands, stated that the question must be referred by him to the Court for instructions. It is better that the representations should be made by His Majesty's Minister direct, if His Shereefian Majesty's instructions are necessary.

No. 159.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1905.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, you should present the claim in connection with the release of Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton to the Moorish Government and request that they will pay it.

No. 160.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1905.

HIS Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction the release of the British officers, as reported in your telegram of the 22nd instant. You should express our thanks for his successful intervention to the Shereef of Wazan.

No. 161.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received October* 26.)

Sir, *Admiralty, October* 25, 1905.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of a letter and its inclosures, dated the 18th instant, from the Commander-in-chief Atlantic fleet, relative to the capture of two British officers, Captain J. E. Crowther, R.M.L.I., and Lieutenant E. A. S. Hatton, R.M.L.I., by Moorish bandits on the 16th October.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 161.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. May to Admiralty.

Sir, *"King Edward VII," at Gibraltar, October* 18, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 15th and 16th October, reporting the capture by the Moorish bandit Valiente of Captain John E. Crowther, R.M.L.I. (His Majesty's ship "Cormorant") and Lieutenant Edward A. S. Hatton, R.M.L.I. (His Majesty's ship "Victorious"), on the 16th instant near Ceuta, be pleased to submit to their Lordships the following account of the circumstances.

His Majesty's ship "Assistance," while at Tetuan Bay, dragged her anchors early on the morning of the 12th October and was stranded broadside on off Negro Point (as reported separately by telegram and letter).

As the wind and sea were increasing so much that it became impracticable to communicate with her from seawards, I deemed it desirable as a precautionary measure to send a rescue party over to Ceuta in a hired tug (the "Rescue") to proceed to the ship by land, taking with them rocket life saving apparatus with tents, medical necessaries, and provisions.

2. Arrangements were accordingly made (through the Spanish Consul at Gibraltar) with his Excellency the Military Governor of Ceuta about landing, &c., and I also telegraphed to the British Minister at Tangier to ask him to facilitate the passage of the party as far as possible (Inclosure 1).*

3. The party left Gibraltar in the tug "Rescue" at 5 A.M. on the 14th composed as follows:—

Lieutenant Ambrose M. Peck, R.N.	His Majesty's ship "Victorious."
Captain J. E. Crowther, R.M.L.I. (detailed specially on account of his knowledge of Spanish) ..	" " "Cormorant."
Surgeon W. P. Hingston, R.N.	" " "King Edward VII."
Six petty officers and men, including one yeoman signaller	" " "Victorious."
Six non-commissioned officers and men (to work life-saving apparatus)	Royal Garrison Artillery.

4. Reaching Ceuta at 6·30 A.M. the party was met by the Governor's Chief of Staff, who arranged for the transport of the apparatus and equipment by mules, which were obtained in Ceuta, and he kindly supplied three horses from the military stables at Ceuta for the use of the officers of the party.

At 9·30 A.M. the party started for Tetuan accompanied by eight muleteers. No difficulty was experienced along the road until outside the Spanish frontier, when progress became slow on account of the rougher nature of the ground. Soon after leaving Spanish territory the party was met by a Moorish soldier guarding the frontier, who demanded money before allowing them to proceed. He was paid and the journey was then continued, the rate of progress being about 2½ miles per hour.

5. At 1·30 P.M. the party were about to halt for food and rest, when twelve armed Moors appeared who stated they were followers of Valiente who was coming to meet them in two hours' time, and that in the meantime the rescue party were required to remain where they were. The spokesman was in the same uniform as the man first met who was guarding the frontier and appeared sincere in his conversation, while the others were highly amused and laughed as the Chief was

* Not printed.

speaking. He further stated that the main object of their meeting Valiente was that he was about to furnish them with an armed guard to see them safely to their destination. The party then began their meal and the Moors fetched drinking water, appearing friendly.

The eight muleteers (Spaniards from Ceuta) were terror-stricken at the sight of the Moorish brigands, but still remained with the party.

6. It should be mentioned also that during the opening conversation between the Chief of the party two men in European attire came out of the bushes stating in Spanish that they were American Moors born and bred in Cuba, who during the Spanish-American War had fought on the American side, and, being captured by the Spanish, were imprisoned at Ceuta, whence they afterwards escaped. These men petitioned Captain Crowther that he would take them to Gibraltar so that they might get a passage back to their country.

7. After about an hour and a-half Captain Crowther suggested to the Chief that Tetuan being still a long way off, and it being necessary to arrive there before nightfall, the party should proceed while he and Lieutenant Peck would remain to meet Valiente; this was agreed to, but shortly after the party started Captain Crowther arranged that, if Valiente wished to see them the Chief should bring him after the party, and thus Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Peck resumed their journey.

8. At 6.30 P.M., daylight being gone and the road very bad, the guide stated that it was impossible to go on further that day with any safety, as a river and a swamp lay between the party and their destination. The party, therefore, encamped for the night and resumed their journey at daybreak, arriving at the "Assistance" at 7·30 A.M., and the party and gear was then embarked as necessary.

9. The narrative up to this point has been taken from the Report of Surgeon Hingston, who further states that an agreement was made at the outset before leaving Ceuta that the muleteers and mules should be accompanied by an English officer on the return journey.

10. The object having been attained the muleteers and mules started back on Monday at 8 A.M. from Tetuan with Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton, R.M.L.I., of the "Victorious," this latter officer having taken the place of Lieutenant Peck, who rejoined his ship at Tetuan.

They were accompanied by a guard of Moorish soldiers, apparently detailed by the Governor of Tetuan.

The next report received of them was on Monday evening, through the Governor of Ceuta, telling of their capture by the Moorish bandit Valiente. I inclose copy of a Report by Captain Crowther (which has been sent on by the Moors)* stating that they were surrounded by an armed party of Valiente's in a gully near the Spanish lines, and that the Moorish escort at once turned traitor.

11. The message received from the Governor of Ceuta, as well as Captain Crowther's letter, both informed me that Valiente refused to give up the two officers unless the Moorish Government released his (Valiente's) brother, who was in prison at Tangier. I immediately communicated this to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, and he replied later that the Sultan's deputy had consented to hand the man over. (See copies of telegrams inclosed.) (Inclosure No. 3.)*

12. I have offered to send a ship to Tangier to fetch this prisoner and to convey him to the place appointed for the exchange, and now await a further telegram from Tangier to see what is the next thing to be done. (Vide Inclosure No. 4.)*

13. Yesterday, directly he arrived here in the P. and O. steamer, I conferred with Mr. White, His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Tangier, as suggested in the telegrams inclosed,* and I have put him in possession of all the facts of the case as far as I know them. (See my telegram No. 412, of the 16th October.)

14. I have now received through his Excellency the Governor the inclosed Report from the captain of the port of Gibraltar,* which contains a statement made by a Spaniard who was with Captain Crowther at the time of capture, but afterwards was released.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. H. MAY, *Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-chief.*

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* Not printed.

No. 162.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 26.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 26, 1905.

CAPTURED Marine Officers.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 58 of the 24th instant. I am about to forward to the Admiral Commander-in-chief, Atlantic, a cheque for the sum claimed by him, which has been handed to me by Sid Torres.

No. 163.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 254.)
My Lord, *Fez, October* 17, 1905.

THE draft programme agreed upon by the German and French Governments in Paris was yesterday officially and in writing communicated to the Makhzen by Count Tattenbach and M. Saint-René Taillandier. The terms of the note conveying the programme were agreed upon by the two Ministers, and the language of the communication was most courteous and moderate, the two notes being identic and presented almost simultaneously.

This morning the Viziers had a long sitting to consider this communication. As the substance of the programme has been already for some time known to the Moorish Government this caused no surprise, but I am informed that considerable disappointment was evinced at finding that the French and German Governments were in so much accord as to present the proposals for the programme in an identic form.

It is not anticipated that, under these circumstances, the Makhzen will attempt much obstruction. There are even indications that they are prepared to send off their Delegates at very short notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 164.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 257. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Fez, October* 19, 1905.

THE French Minister had a private audience of the Sultan and intimated to His Majesty that he desired to complete his instructions by informing His Majesty that a programme for the deliberations of the Conference had been agreed upon, of which His Majesty was already cognizant, as it had been communicated to the Makhzen. He need not, he said, detain His Majesty by any explanations regarding the programme, for it was merely a very brief recapitulation of the reforms which he had proposed and explained at length to the Moorish officials in May last, and as they were conceived in the interests of Morocco, and intended for the welfare and for the strengthening of His Majesty's Empire, the stability of which had been for the past few years somewhat shaken.

M. Saint-René Taillandier trusted that the programme met with His Majesty's views. The French Minister added that Algeciras had been decided upon as the place for the meeting of the Conference, as it was the nearest town in Europe to His Majesty's dominions, and his Excellency avoided all reference to any other considerations affecting this choice.

His Majesty replied that he had seen the programme and intended to make some observations upon it, which, after due study, would be conveyed to his Excellency by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and His Majesty added that he hoped that he could rely upon the support of the French Government at the Conference.

The German Minister saw the Sultan immediately afterwards with the same object as that of his French colleague. I understand that he had hoped to be able to return from the audience and announce the fact that His Shereefian Majesty had agreed to the

programme, and thus secure some of the credit for having persuaded His Majesty to accept the text, but in this Count Tattenbach has been disappointed, and although there are no indications that the Makhzen intend to be very obstinate, they will doubtless offer some remarks on the financial portion of the programme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 165.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 28.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 22, 1905.

WITH reference to the capture of Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton, both of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, by brigands in Anghera, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a despatch addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty by Admiral Sir William May, Commander-in-chief in the Atlantic,* who has transmitted a copy thereof to this Legation.

From this despatch, which contains a full account of the incident up to the time of the capture, it appears that a rescue party had been sent from Gibraltar with life-saving apparatus to proceed by land from Ceuta to the spot near Cape Negro, where His Majesty's ship "Assistance" was stranded. Facilities having been granted at Ceuta by the Spanish Governor, the party started from that place on the morning of the 14th instant, and reached His Majesty's ship "Assistance" the following day. Two incidents occurred on the way: a man, supposed to be a Moorish soldier, demanded the payment of money before allowing the party to proceed after passing the Moorish lines; and some miles further on the party were met by some armed Moors, followers of a well-known Chief of bad reputation, known as Valiente, who detained them some time on the pretence that he wished to furnish them with an escort.

On the morning of the 16th instant, in accordance with a promise previously made to the muleteers that some officers would return with the mules, Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton started for Ceuta with the muleteers and an escort of about twenty Moorish soldiers provided by the Governor of Tetuan. The other officers and men had embarked on some of His Majesty's ships which were with the "Assistance."

All went well until the party had arrived close to the Spanish lines, when they were suddenly surrounded and taken captive by a number of armed men, followers of Valiente. The escort is said to have turned traitor; in any case they offered no resistance, but surrendered their arms and returned to Tetuan, where they took sanctuary, as I learn from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke.

The first news of the capture reached this Legation, through the Spanish Minister, on the evening of the 16th instant, and Mr. Wyldbore Smith at once sent out messengers to Anghera to obtain information; he also communicated with Sid Torres, the Sultan's deputy here, and with His Majesty's Minister at Fez.

I arrived at Gibraltar, on my return from England, the following morning, and was informed of the occurrence by the Commander-in-chief, upon whom I called to learn full particulars and discuss the situation.

So far as could be learnt, the only condition made by the brigands for the surrender of the captives was the release from Tangier prison of their brother, who had been arrested a few months previously on the demand of the Spanish Minister, having shot a Spanish soldier, who died of the wound. There were also many other complaints against this man, who was a noted smuggler and bandit, and had for long set the Government openly at defiance, and caused great trouble to the Spanish authorities at Ceuta.

On first hearing the demand made for Valiente's release, Mr. Wyldbore Smith had informed Sid Torres, who very properly replied that it could not be done without the consent of the Spanish Minister. Mr. Smith also communicated with the Spanish Minister, M. Llaveria, who telegraphed to his Government for instructions.

Whilst awaiting the reply of the Spanish Government on this point, I was informed by Sid Torres that he had received a letter from Duas, Governor of Anghera, stating that he had started for Emzalah, the abode of the Valiente brothers, and would obtain the surrender of the officers, either with or without the consent of the Valientes. Sid Torres declared he was confident that Duas would succeed, and though I was not myself as confident, I thought it advisable to wait a short time to learn the result of Duas' action.

* Not printed.

Accordingly, when on the night of the 18th instant the Spanish Minister informed me that he had been authorized by his Government to consent to the release of Valiente, I requested him to postpone making any communication on the subject to the Moorish authorities until we learnt that Duas had failed to obtain the unconditional release of the captives.

The following morning, as the Cammander-in-chief had offered to send a vessel to take Valiente to Ceuta, I requested that a vessel might convey to that place the secretary of Sid Torres with a letter to Duas, in order to bring back the captives, if their unconditional release had been obtained, or at any rate to enable us to speedily obtain authoritative information as to what the conditions really were, rumours being current that various other concessions would be required.

His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder," Commander Hickley, having been detailed for this purpose, arrived here at about 8 P.M. that night, and after I had had an interview with the Commander, left at once for Ceuta with Sid Torres' secretary.

I subsequently learnt that Sid Torres had also sent that same night a small Government launch to Ceuta to convey Sid-el-Aghmish, the lieutenant of the port here, who is on good terms with the Valientes, and was instructed to endeavour to persuade them to surrender the captives.

I had a further interview that day with Sid Torres, and on learning that Duas had returned to his own village without effecting anything, and had requested to be provided with some mounted soldiers, I impressed upon Sid Torres that no force must be used nor expedition sent against the Valientes without my consent.

His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" returned from Ceuta at about 6 P.M. that day, and Commander Hickley informed me that it had been arranged that the captives would be released in exchange for Valiente.

I accordingly called upon the Spanish Minister and requested him to be good enough to signify to Sid Torres his consent to the release of Valiente. This was immediately done.

M. Llaveria informed me that he had received a telegram from the Governor of Ceuta expressing his unwillingness to take any part in the surrender of Valiente in exchange for the captives, as he considered it would be an unedifying spectacle. He added that if Valiente were to land at Ceuta he would have to be delivered to the Tribunals for trial. Similar language was, I understand, held by the Governor to Commander Hickley.

M. Llaveria, who was evidently anxious that the Spanish authorities should have a share in the transaction, said he would telegraph on the subject to the Governor, who was evidently not aware that his Government had arranged that the Spanish authorities should act in concert with us in the matter, and he asked that Commander Hickley should communicate with the Governor on arrival there. I therefore requested Commander Hickley to act in concert with the Governor should he find that that official desired to take part in the proceedings.

I then called upon Sid Torres, accompanied by Commander Hickley, and inquired what report he had received from his secretary. He replied that the Valientes had engaged to surrender the captives if their brother were set free, and also two men in prison at Tetuan. He was therefore about to send Valiente off in a Moorish steamer in order that the exchange should be accomplished.

I had been warned by M. Llaveria that this proposal, which he considered objectionable, would be made. Commander Hickley also desired me to insist on Valiente being conveyed in his vessel, and on many accounts that appeared to me desirable.

I therefore informed Sid Torres that I could not accept his proposal, and that Valiente must be conveyed in the "Pathfinder." He at first demurred, but finally agreed. It was then arranged that, as Valiente would most probably not consent to release the captives except in exchange for all these prisoners, the "Pathfinder" should proceed first to Marteen, where she would arrive by daybreak this morning. Sid Torres' secretary would at once land and proceed to Tetuan, bring the two prisoners, and re-embark. The vessel would then go to Ceuta, where the party would land and proceed to the neutral zone, where it was arranged with the Spanish Minister and with Sid Torres the exchange should take place.

I deemed it advisable to send Mr. Bristow to represent this Legation, as his services might be required as interpreter or otherwise.

His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" left that night, and arrived at Marteen at daybreak yesterday morning. Sid Torres landed at once, and rode to Tetuan, Mr. Bristow accompanying him to hasten proceedings. They returned with four

prisoners, instead of two, as previously arranged, and with Sid-el-Aghmish, who had gone to Tetuan from the Valientes' village. Sid Erghziny, a Tetuan notable, who has influence with the Valientes, also accompanied them.

These Moors informed Commander Hickley that it had been arranged with the Valientes to effect the exchange at F'nidak (Castillejos), and that the party were waiting on the shore there. Owing to the blowing up of the fort on the neutral ground by the Spaniards, reported in Mr. Smith's despatch of the 14th instant, relations between Ceuta and the Anghera are very strained, and it appears that they object to the exchange being effected from Ceuta. Commander Hickley therefore decided to go to F'nidak, where the "Pathfinder" arrived at about 2 P.M. There were at least 200 Moors assembled on the shore, but the captives were not there. Sid-el-Aghmish landed and conferred with the brigands, subsequently informing Commander Hickley that they insisted on the prisoner Valiente being first landed and allowed to go to his house, situated in the mountains at a distance of about two hours' march, where the captives were. They said that when the prisoner Valiente was safe in his house the captives would be conducted to the shore and set free. Commander Hickley very properly refused to agree to this, fearing treachery; Sid Aghmish and the other Moors also recommended that this arrangement should not be accepted.

The prisoner on learning what had passed was much disappointed, and asked to be allowed to see his brother, whom he was confident he could induce to be more reasonable. He was accordingly conveyed in a boat close to the shore, and had an interview with his brother, who rode into the sea to meet him. The prisoner begged his brother to bring the captives to the shore and effect the exchange there, but his entreaties were unavailing, and hard words passed between the brothers. Meanwhile Sid Aghmish and Sid Erghziny had also landed and endeavoured to bring the brigands to a better frame of mind, but without success, the former being even beaten.

Further negotiations being useless, His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" returned to Tangier with the prisoners, arriving at about 8·30 P.M.

On learning from Commander Hickley what had occurred, I called at once on Sid Torres, with whom I found his Secretary, Sid Aghmish, and Sid Kebbash, who is officially associated with Sid Torres. I was accompanied by Commander Hickley and Mr. Bristow.

Sid Torres, who had received a report of all that occurred, was at a loss to suggest any further step that could be taken in the matter except the use of force, which the Governor of Anghera and the Commander of the M'halla had advocated. I said that was out of the question, as it might endanger the safety of the captives; this he admitted, engaging not to sanction the use of force without first obtaining my consent. It was then suggested that the Shereefs of Wazan, being on friendly terms with the Anghera people, and possessing great influence with them, might be able to assist us, as they had done in obtaining the liberation of Mr. Harris, and of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

I accordingly at once called upon the Shereefs, who received me, notwithstanding the advanced hour, and after some hesitation they consented to lend their assistance; it being arranged that one of them, Muley Hamed, should embark in His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" next morning. I had previously called at the Spanish Legation to explain why the "Pathfinder" had not gone to Ceuta as arranged, but I found that M. Llaveria had already retired to bed. I, however, called upon him again early this morning, and he informed me that the Governor of Ceuta still preferred that the exchange should not take place there, and that therefore it was as well that it had been decided to go to F'nidak instead.

His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" left for F'nidak at 10 A.M. this morning conveying the prisoners, Muley Hamed and his attendants, and I trust the Shereef may be able to obtain the liberation of the captives.

Commander Hickley, fearing that the captives might at the last moment put forward a demand for a money payment, inquired whether he could be authorized to make the payment on account of the Moorish Government. I put the question to Sid Torres and Sid Kebbash at the interview we had with him, and they both authorized Commander Hickley to pay on their account any sum that might be demanded up to 15,000 to 20,000 dollars, engaging to repay the amount immediately without waiting to refer to the Court. They asked that, should a larger sum be demanded, they might be consulted by telegraph before payment was made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S.—His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder" returned this evening with Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton, whose liberation had been obtained through the good offices of Muley Hamed, of Wazan.

I shall have the honour to address your Lordship a further despatch on this subject when I am in possession of Commander Hickley's Report.

I have called upon the Shereefs of Wazan and have thanked them for the valuable assistance they have rendered.

H. E. W.

No. 166.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 28.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 22, 1905.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida reports that good rains have fallen in the south, and that it will probably have the effect of pacifying the people.

It is reported that the attempt to collect taxes in Dukala and vicinity is meeting with better success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 167.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 190. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, October* 26, 1905.

I PAID a visit to M. Rouvier this morning, and informed him that a telegram had been received by your Lordship from Mr. Lowther to the effect that the Sultan of Morocco had accepted the programme for the Conference, and had also agreed to the selection of Algeciras as the place of meeting. His Excellency said he was very glad to learn this news, but that he himself has as yet received no telegram from the French Minister at Fez. The last report which he had received from M. Saint-René Taillandier was that the identic note had been presented to the Sultan, who had then merely said that he would require time for reflection. M. Rouvier added that it was satisfactory to know that the acceptance of the Sultan had been conveyed in writing.

His Excellency gave me to understand that he feared there would be a difficulty in the Conference coming to an agreement as to the policing of the ports. It would, he said, not be possible to assent to the Germans undertaking the police at a southern port, but possibly the police could be limited to three or four northern ports, to be placed under French and Spanish officials, and that the question of the other ports could be postponed until it was seen what resources would be available for meeting the necessary expenditure.

I asked M. Rouvier whether he had had any communication with the chief members of the Spanish Cabinet on political questions. His Excellency replied that he had been able to hold some short conversations with the Prime Minister and the Minister of State, and had been most favourably impressed with the friendly disposition of the former. He said he had found some little difficulty in conversing with the latter, but he understood from him that he was of the same mind as Señor Montero Rios.

He had gathered, he added, from Señor Moret, who was an old acquaintance, that in all probability he would shortly replace the Prime Minister; but he did not know if Señor Moret would be so friendly disposed as was the present head of the Government.

I told M. Rouvier that Señor Moret had spoken to me quite recently as to his desire to maintain a thoroughly good understanding with France and Great Britain. M. Rouvier remarked that he trusted this would be the case, but that he had understood that Señor Moret received his inspiration chiefly from the German Embassy here.

M. Rouvier was especially struck with the intelligence and friendly attitude of King Alfonso, who had been a most attentive and charming host. He hoped His Majesty would not be led into any entanglements in Berlin; but, so far as he could judge, the intercourse which had hitherto taken place between the German Emperor and the King had not left a very pleasing impression on the latter. King Alfonso had, he said,

declined to entertain a proposal which had quite recently been made to him from Berlin that the German Military Attaché should escort him through France to the German frontier, as His Majesty considered it would not be a very courteous proceeding towards the French Government.

M. Rouvier accompanies the President to Lisbon to-night, and returns almost immediately overland to Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 168.

Count Metternich to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 30.)

(Translation.)
My Lord, *German Embassy, October* 28, 1905.

IN accordance with my instructions and in pursuance of an Agreement with the French Government, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of the Franco-German Convention executed in Paris on the 28th ultimo. It contains the programme of a Conference shortly to be summoned by the Sultan of Morocco for the deliberation of measures calculated to effect an improvement in the present state of the Shereefian Empire.

I have been instructed at the same time to inquire from your Excellency whether the British Government, as one of the Signatory Powers of the Convention signed at Madrid on the 3rd July, 1880, with regard to the exercise of the right of protection in Morocco, is prepared, upon receipt of a formal invitation, to participate in the Conference on the basis of the programme, and whether they concur in the proposal of the French and German Governments that the Conference should take place in the Spanish town of Algeciras.

I have, &c.
(Signed) METTERNICH.

Inclosure in No. 168.

Franco-German Convention, dated September 28, 1905.

LES deux Gouvernements se sont mis d'accord pour proposer au Sultan le projet de programme suivant, élaboré en conformité des principes adoptés dans l'échange de lettres du 8 Juillet :—

1.—(1.) Organisation, par voie d'accord international, de la police hors de la région frontière.

(2.) Règlement organisant la surveillance et la répression de la contrebande des armes. Dans la région frontière, l'application de ce Règlement restera l'affaire exclusive de la France et du Maroc.

2. *Réforme Financière.*—Concours financier donné au Maghzen par la création d'une banque d'État avec privilège d'émission, se chargeant des opérations de Trésorerie, s'entremettant pour la frappe de la monnaie dont les bénéfices appartiendraient au Maghzen.

La Banque d'Etat procéderait à l'assainissement de la situation monétaire.

Les crédits ouverts au Maghzen seraient employés à l'équipement et à la solde des troupes de police et à certains travaux publics urgents, notamment à l'amélioration des ports et de leur outillage.

3. Étude d'un meilleur rendement des impôts et de la création de nouveaux revenus.

4. Engagement par le Maghzen de n'aliéner aucun des services publics au profit d'intérêts particuliers.

Principe de l'adjudication, sans acception de nationalité, pour les travaux publics.

Fait à Paris, le 28 Septembre, 1905.

(Signé) RADOLIN.
ROUVIER.

No. 169.

Sir M. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 18. Consular.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, October* 25, 1905.

THE attention of His Majesty's Consul having been called to a statement in the "Daily Express" of the 16th instant, concerning the arrival of a steamer in the port of Lisbon with a cargo of arms, and the alleged mysterious disappearance of her crew, he has inquired into the matter and furnished me with the inclosed report.

The vessel, it will be seen, is under the Belgian flag, and it does not appear that the Portuguese Customs authorities regard her cargo or destination with suspicion. She is detained here for repairs, and her crew was discharged in the ordinary manner. She is bound from the Morocco coast for Antwerp. She has a few cases of arms and ammunition on board.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

P.S.—In response to further inquiries by Mr. Churchill, Messrs. Pinto Basto, an important Lisbon shipping firm, have kindly supplied the details given in the letter inclosed in copy, showing that the "Ville de Bordeaux" has been engaged in smuggling operations on the Moorish coast.

M. DE B.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

Consul Churchill to Sir M. de Bunsen.

Sir, *Lisbon, October* 25, 1905.

I HAVE seen the article in the "Daily Express" of the 16th July, entitled "Cargo of Smuggled Arms: Mysterious Disappearance of a Steamer's Crew."

I beg to report that the "Ville de Bordeaux" is a very small steamer, of 300 tons or so, flying the Belgian flag. She put in to Lisbon on the 18th ultimo, having sustained damage to her machinery, and the repairs requiring considerable time, the whole crew, including the master, were discharged in the ordinary way. They did not disappear suddenly in the dead of night as alleged.

The vessel is now at Cova da Piedade, in Cacilhas Bay, in the Tagus opposite Lisbon, there awaiting orders as to repairs, &c.

There are undoubtedly arms and ammunition on board, but the quantity, as given by the official dispatching agent at the custom-house, only amounts to twenty-six cases of guns or rifles, and twenty-five cases of ammunition.

The agents are a German firm in Lisbon.

The vessel came from Casa Blanca, in Morocco, and her destination was Antwerp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. L. CHURCHILL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 169.

Mr. W. Pinto Basto to Consul Churchill.

Dear Mr. Churchill, *Lisbon, October* 25, 1905.

REFERRING to our conversation of this morning, I have since been able to get you full and most reliable information as regards the Belgian steamer "Ville de Bordeaux."

This steamer left Antwerp for the coast of Morocco with a cargo of arms and ammunition, which was to have been smuggled ashore on that coast, by arrangements previously made with a Frenchman, a Belgian, and a German, this latter called "Strecker," all three having gone out in the steamer to Morocco. The smuggling ought to have been done during a short time only, but owing to their not having competent boats it took much longer, with the result that they were not able to land a small part of it, which is still on board the ship, viz., twenty-six packages rifles or guns, and twenty-five cases cartridges,! manifested now as from Casa Blanco at

Antwerp, no secret whatever being made at the custom-house here, nor on board the ship, where the packages are not hidden.

The bulk of the cargo, however, was landed at Morocco, when the natives or rebels came up and began firing on the party, who had to abandon the place. One of them was ashore at the time, having had great difficulty to get away, returned overland, and only joined the ship here. Apparently, owing to all this, it has been a bad business, so that there was no money forthcoming to make any repairs on the ship or pay the crew, and this is the reason why her owners ordered the crew to be sent home, and there are two men on board at present, sent by the agent here to keep guard on the ship. The ship was never abandoned by the crew; it was the owner that ordered them home. They met with very bad weather in the Bay of Biscay in the outward voyage, which caused some damage. The ship and machinery are very old and out of order, and had to put in to some ports on her way from Casa Blanca to Lisbon, and so far apparently they have not decided to do anything with her. The real thing is that this was a bad business, and they do not know what to do with her.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) WM. PINTO BASTO.

P.S.—She arrived here on the 18th ultimo.

W. P. B.

No. 170.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Fez, October* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 99 of the 3rd October *re* the Madden murder case.

The Moorish Government have made a grant of 2,000*l.* to the widow, and I have obtained the written consent of the Moorish Government to everything demanded in the afore-mentioned telegram.

No. 171.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1905.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd instant, reporting the circumstances of the capture of Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton.

I approve the action taken throughout by yourself and by Mr. Wyldbore Smith, and I request that you will thank the Spanish Minister for the assistance given by him in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.